

Hafa Adai!

Delegate bets address gov't accountability, small biz support. **PAGE 2**

Rotary's Dance-A-Thon Fundraiser to #Eradicate polio this Friday. **PAGE 3**

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OVER OAG DISQUALIFICATION

Court grants stay in Torres case

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In an order from judge pro tem Arthur R. Barcinas last Tuesday, the NMI Superior Court granted a stay in the case proceedings against former governor Ralph DLG Torres, bringing the case on temporary hold while an appeal is made to the NMI Supreme Court.



Barcinas

The stay comes after the court's disqualification of the Office of the Attorney General raised significant constitutional questions, particularly over the separation

See **COURT** on Page 4



From left, senior division second place Daniel Taisakan and Princess Debengek, first place Rianna Barcinas and Bernice Feolino of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior-Senior High School and Jessiana Tenorio of Mount Carmel School, and third place Yu Rong Jiang of Saipan Southern High School pose for a group photo after the 2024 Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition last Friday at the American Memorial Park. Also in photo at the back are members of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council led by executive director Leo Pangelinan.

SKYLEE SANTOS

2024 SENGEBAU POETRY COMPETITION

MCS' Tenorio, RHI's Feolino, Barcinas rule senior division

By **SKYLEE SANTOS**
santosskylee@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Last of a two-part series

Mount Carmel School's Jessiana Tenorio and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior-Senior High School's Bernice A. Feolino and Rianna T. Barcinas won the senior division of the 2024 Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition last Friday at the American Memorial Park.

The senior division added a challenge to participants' performance as they had to write an original poem

See **MCS** on Page 4

CCC, CEC, MVA officially gain new board members

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission, Commonwealth Election Commission, and the Marianas Visitors Authority officially gained new board members yesterday to represent the island of Rota following a Senate confirmation hearing yesterday.

Yesterday, the Senate held a regular session where they officially confirmed Thomas A. Manglona, Kurt John O.

See **CCC** on Page 4



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The Senate held a regular session yesterday where they officially confirmed Thomas A. Manglona, Kurt John O. Maratita, and Dwayne L. Maratita to the Commonwealth Casino Commission, Commonwealth Election Commission, and Marianas Visitors Authority boards, respectively.

10 years for man who pleaded guilty to possessing child porn

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has imposed a 120-month imprisonment term on Vincent Masga Songsong, a man who previously pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography.

Yesterday, District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramon V. Manglona issued an amended judgement in

the case of Songsong, a man who pleaded guilty to possession of child pornography back in April.

According to the amended judgment, Songsong is sentenced to 120 months (or 10 years) incarceration with the Federal Bureau of Prisons with credit for time served of 156 days.

Following his release from prison, Songsong will be

See **GUILTY** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The Commonwealth Cancer Association hosted the "Hakuna-My-Tatas Zumbathon" as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month last Oct. 12.

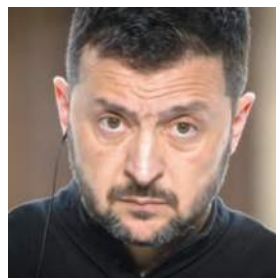
PAGE 5



BUSINESS

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce recently introduced six board of directors nominees for its 2025-2026 term.

PAGE 9



WORLD

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was set to at least partially unveil a plan to win the war against Russia to his country's Parliament on Wednesday after weeks of dropping hints about the blueprint to lukewarm Western allies, including U.S. President Joe Biden.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Delegate bets address gov't accountability, small biz support

By SKYLEE SANTOS
santosskylee@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Last of a series

In a highly anticipated town hall forum, CNMI delegate candidates for U.S. House of Representatives Lian Hofschneider, Kimberlyn King-Hinds, Edwin K. Propst, James Rayphand, and John Oliver Gonzales gathered with the community to discuss pressing matters surrounding government accountability and support for small businesses. With federal funds at stake and a focus on improving local governance, the con-

versation centered on ensuring better oversight, transparency, and collaboration between local and federal agencies.

The forum, which was hosted by Marianas Business Network at Tom Yun Restaurant & Karaoke Bar last week, opened with a discussion on the proper use of federal funds, highlighting a consensus among candidates on the need for increased legislative oversight and transparency. King-Hinds and Propst, NMI Republican Party and Democratic Party of the NMI bets, respectively, emphasized the importance of monitoring spending and proposed the

creation of oversight positions to combat misuse. Hofschneider, an independent candidate, called for the Government Accountability Office file reports attached to federal funds to ensure accountability.

Regarding handling American Rescue Plan Act funds, Gonzales, another independent bet, criticized the lack of internal controls, advocating for multi-layered oversight to prevent mismanagement. In contrast, Rayphand, also an independent bet, insisted that existing federal grant conditions are sufficient if properly enforced.

The delegates concluded

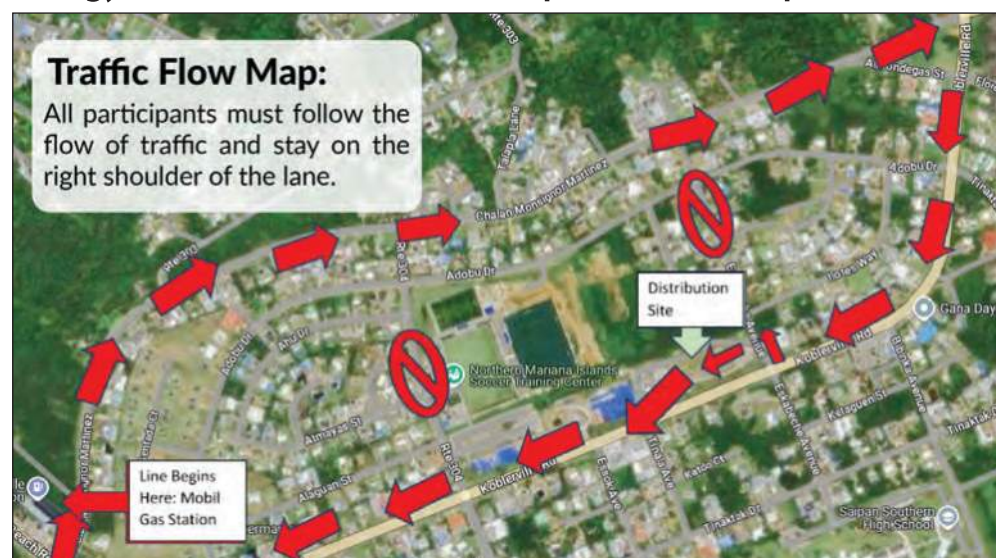
with a focus on collaboration between local and federal agencies. King-Hinds highlighted the need for relationship-building while sharing personal anecdotes

about teamwork. Rayphand reinforced the importance of community input in decision-making.

As the forum came to a close, candidates reiterated their collective commitment to public service and the support of small businesses, calling for

greater community engagement and informed voting. The forum underscored critical issues of government accountability and economic development, with a clear call to action for voters to participate in shaping the island community's future.

Energy Division to distribute free portable solar-powered fans



The Energy Division Office of the Department of Public Works will be hosting its 2024 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Community Outreach Awareness Campaign and Distribution Program to distribute portable solar-powered table-top fans on the island of Saipan.

The Energy Division, in conjunction with its Energy Education, Efficiency, and Conservation Program efforts, will be distributing one portable solar-powered table-top fan per residential household to assist residential consumers reduce the en-

ergy consumption and electricity costs of their homes and to educate the community about the importance of energy efficiency and conservation efforts in the CNMI.

The portable solar-powered tabletop fans will be available for distribution on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. The event will be a drive-thru distribution event and will be held on Oct. 26, 2024 at the Koblerville Youth Center from 8:30am until supplies last.

To avail of a portable solar-powered table-top fan, residential household consumers must present a copy of a valid

government-issued identification card and a copy of a most recent utility bill with the name on the account. If consumers are renting, provide a copy of the lease or rental agreement along with the CUC utility bill. If the CUC account is under the landlord's name, a copy of the landlord's valid government-issued identification card must be provided. If the tenant is sub-metered, the sub-metered number must be provided along with the CUC utility bill/receipt of the utility bill and a copy of the account holder's valid government-issued identification card.

If a residential homeowner with a CUC account holder's name is unable to participate in the event, a homeowner may designate an authorized person to obtain a portable solar-powered table-top fan on their behalf. However, an authorization letter must be issued by the homeowner designating a person authorized to obtain the portable solar-powered table-top fan, along with a copy of a valid government-issued ID of the account holder and the designated person authorized. Businesses, rental property owners, and/or landlords are not eligible to receive the portable solar-powered table-top fans. For additional questions or information regarding this event, you may contact Mardee-Ann Hermosilla, administrative officer; or Daniel Taitano, program coordinator at (670) 664-4480/2. Funding opportunity for this project is made possible through federal grant funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program-Bipartisan Infrastructure law. (PR)



In the Hearts of Those She Touched

Marilyn Kornved Swift

October 5, 2024

Marilyn was born on May 30, 1946 in San Jose, California to Robert and Marilyn Swift. Close relatives and loved ones included Beverly (sister), Kearny (brother), Wesley (brother), Claudia (sister-in-law), and Maynard (brother). Her son Michael and grandson Alexander also reside in California. On the Harper side are Earl and LaVon Harper (parents), Dennis Harper (brother-in-law), Sharon Harper (sister-in-law), Joy Harper (sister-in-law), Michael Poynter (brother-in-law), Leah Harper (daughter-in-law), Cheeto Schaffer (son-in-law), Kate Harper (daughter-in-law), Joe Patterson (son-in-law) and grandson Fin. Her life partner is Randy A. Harper of Saipan.

Her brother Wesley fondly said, that his sister was a leader of the family introducing sports, adventure, and a love of nature to her siblings. She led a full life of adventure worshipping at the heights of the Cascades, Rockies, and Sierras, traversing desert canyons in search of hidden ruins, and plunging to the depths of the Grand Canyon organizing rafting trips down the mighty Colorado River; she thoroughly enjoyed all that the outdoors had to offer.

After graduating high school, Marilyn worked her way through college to earn an Associate Degree at West Valley College, Saratoga, California, and later graduating in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology from San Jose State University, California.


Her early career in Archaeology included projects in California, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. She worked her way up from being a field technician to positions of crew leader and project director. It was during her work in New Mexico that she and Randy Harper became partners. A fortuitous happenstance resulted in her working, first on Kosrae, and later on Saipan in 1989. On April Fool's Day in 1994, Marilyn and Randy started their archaeological consulting company on Saipan with their Principal Director, Michael A. Fleming, M.A.

In the 30 years of doing archaeology here in the CNMI and Guam, Marilyn was very meticulous and careful to record everything in as much detail as possible; she felt strongly that this was a chance for the ancestors to talk and teach future generations of Chamorro and Carolinian offspring about their ancestor's lives – she cared deeply for the people of the CNMI and their culture. In archaeological jargon – she dug it!

Archaeologists by trade and wild bird conservationists by heart, Marilyn and Randy were given the opportunity, by the Division of Fish and Wildlife, to monitor a seabird colony on Managaha Island for 14 years. During that time, they learned (with the help of Dr. Tudor and other visiting veterinarians) how to treat and care for sick, injured, and orphaned birds. In 2008, they decided to open up their home (no cages) to birds and started, what was to become to this day, a bird sanctuary with the goal of releasing as many birds back to the wild as possible. There are many birds out there flying today due to the efforts of Marilyn and her partner Randy. She was proud of her bird sanctuary as she felt that a community is partially gauged by how well they take care of the animals around them.

After an extended illness, Marilyn died on October 5, 2024. Her ashes will be taken back to her family members in the States. She loved the CNMI, her natural and "adopted" Chamorro families, and so many close friends and associates. This gal is missed...

Memorial contributions to Marilyn's bird sanctuary are appreciated; if interested, please contact Randy Harper at (670) 789-5056. Si Yu'os ma'ase



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on August 13, 2021, **Joaquin Felix Tomokane**, an immediate family member of **David Chargualaf**, an employee of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, applied for assistance under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Housing Program.

Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low to moderate income individuals intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Chargualaf, an employee of NMHC, is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this grant application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable conflict regulations.

Written comments may be faxed to Fax No.: (670) 234-9451, mailed to P.O. Box 500514 Saipan, MP 96950, or emailed to cnmi-cdbg-dr@nmhc.gov.net on or before **November 8, 2024**.

Dated this 11th day of October, 2024.

/s/
Zenie P. Mafnas
Corporate Director

Rotary's Dance-A-Thon Fundraiser to #Eradicate Polio this Friday

Rotary Club of Saipan is taking action in honor of World Polio Day to raise awareness, funds, and support to end polio, a vaccine-preventable disease that still threatens children in parts of the world today.

On Friday, Oct. 18, the club will hold the first Dance-A-Thon Fundraiser to #Eradicate Polio in support of World Polio Day on Oct. 24, 2024.

The event is from 5pm to 8pm at Garapan Central Park's Roundhouse and joining Rotary Club of Saipan members are Fitbeat Zumba instructors Helly Montes, Art Salazar, Susan Galman, Zhang Chunhua, and Kazu Castro, coaches Joel Vallejo, Moji de Luna, and Irene Holl, along with other Zumba groups, participants, and Interact Clubs.

The event is open to the



RACQUEL FLOYD

Rotary Club of Saipan president Joann Aquino discusses Rotary's activities for the month of October during their meeting last Oct. 8 at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

community and tickets are being sold by Rotarians and could be purchased on the day of the event for \$5 each. Also, T-shirts will be sold for \$10, as well as raffle tickets for prizes. All proceeds will be donated to Rotary's PolioPlus campaign.

A proclamation signing to acknowledge "World Polio Day" will be held on the Rotary Club of Saipan's general membership meeting on Oct. 22, 2024 at The Terrace Private Room, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan at 12pm.

Some famous people who

had polio include Franklin D. Roosevelt, the 32nd President of the United States, and Canadian actor Donald Sutherland.

Polio anywhere is a threat everywhere, and Rotary members from the Rotary Club of Saipan District 2750 have long worked to end the paralyzing virus, which will be only the second human disease ever to be eradicated. They have raised a total of \$106,734.00 to date through individual member and club donations.

Rotary has contributed more than \$2.7 billion to fight polio and countless volunteer hours since launching its PolioPlus program in 1985. In 1988, Rotary joined in partnership with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to form the

Global Polio Eradication Initiative. The Gates Foundation and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, later joined. When the initiative launched, there were 350,000 cases of polio every year. Today, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99.9%.

To sustain this progress and continue to reach every child with the polio vaccine, Rotary has committed to raising \$50 million each year to support global polio eradication efforts. The Gates Foundation has pledged to match that 2-to-1 for a total yearly contri-

bution of US\$150 million.

Rotary brings together a global network of community leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. The club connects 1.4 million members from more than 46,000 Rotary clubs across the world. Their service improves lives both locally and internationally, from helping those in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world.

Visit Rotary.org and end-polio.org for more about Rotary and its efforts to eradicate polio. (PR)

Palacios and Apatang extend condolences to family of late DPS chief

The administration of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family of the late former commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, Robert A. Guerrero, on his untimely passing.

"Commissioner Guerrero was a leadership figure



Guerrero

whose legacy of public service and commitment to the people of the Commonwealth are gratefully acknowledged," Palacios and Apatang said in a statement.

They added that during his tenure with the CNMI government, Guerrero worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of the CNMI community. His many years of dedicated service were a testament to his passion for public safety and his unwavering dedication to the betterment of our islands.

"We extend our special condolences to his wife, Terry, and his children. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they navigate these challenging times."

Guerrero reportedly passed away due to health complications last week. He was survived by his wife and children.

Guerrero served as DPS commissioner from 2016 until 2022.

Former governor Ralph DLG Torres, whose administration Guerrero served under, stated that he is saddened by the loss of another CNMI leader.

"Upon learning of the

passing of Mr. Robert Guerrero, I extend my condolences to his wife, Terry, and his children. His loss fills us with deep sadness. Mr. Guerrero dedicated eight years to serving our Commonwealth and its citizens as the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety. He championed police officers' benefits, sala-

ries, and improved workplace conditions, uplifting those in the department and reinforcing the vital support needed for our frontline protectors," he said.

Torres stated despite the struggle of handling a department like DPS, Guerrero was a good leader.

"The Department of Public Safety is one of the most

challenging departments, and I was fortunate to have him lead during my time in office. As we reflect on Mr. Guerrero's significant contributions, we remember him not just as a commissioner but as a friend and a devoted public servant committed to making our Commonwealth a safer place for all," he said. (Saipan Tribune)



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-24-027

ISLAND WIDE ROAD RESTORATION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Road Restoration, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation, placing of flowable fill and asphalt to replace pavement areas cut by CUC to repair waterlines. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC and DPW. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year if exercised by CUC.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 10, 2024 at 9:30 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference, Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Island Wide Road Restoration" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 28, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualifications shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 11, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, Water and Wastewater Division Manager via email, rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, P&S Senior Administrative Technician, via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI Government
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-004-25

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024: 4:00 P.M.

"REPAIRS OF PIPES AND FITTINGS OF THE SEAWATER FIRE FIGHTING PUMP SYSTEM AT THE PORT OF SAIPAN"

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "REPAIRS OF PIPES/FITTINGS OF THE SEAWATER FIRE FIGHTING PUMP SYSTEM (RFP-004-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., OCTOBER 31, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI Government
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND Floor Arrival Bldg.
PO BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP • 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-011-24

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024: 4:00 P.M.

"CYBERSECURITY CENTRALIZED NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION PER TSA REQUIREMENTS"

THE BID PACKAGE AND OTHER CONTRACT CONSIDERATIONS IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024 AT THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UPON PAYMENT OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100. PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, CREDIT CARD, OR U.S. POSTAL MONEY ORDER. ALL APPLICANTS SHALL PAY THE \$100.00 TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE BID.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT FIVE (5) HARD COPIES AND ONE ELECTRONIC COPY ON A CD, OR DVD, OR FLASH DRIVE, IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CYBERSECURITY CENTRALIZED NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION PER TSA REQUIREMENTS" (RFP-011-24) TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 4:00 P.M., OCTOBER 31, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION \$40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

COURT

From page 1

of powers between the executive and judicial branches.

On Oct. 7, 2024, Barcinas, in a virtual hearing, took the Commonwealth’s motion under advisement, ultimately ruling in their favor. The Commonwealth, represented by chief solicitor J. Robert Glass Jr., argued that disqualifying the OAG from the prosecution impermissibly hindered the attorney general’s constitutional authority to prosecute cases on behalf

of the Commonwealth.

The disqualification stemmed from a July 16, 2024 decision to remove the OAG and special prosecutor from the case. The Commonwealth quickly filed an appeal and, in September 2024, sought to pause all proceedings while the Supreme Court deliberates on the matter. Torres’ defense team, led by attorney Anthony Aguon, objected, citing a lack of jurisdiction for an appeal of this nature.

Separation of powers at issue

Central to the Commonwealth’s ar-

gument is the concern that removing the OAG from the case intrudes on the authority of the Executive Branch, particularly the prosecutorial powers of the Office of Attorney General. Glass said that the Commonwealth is facing irreparable harm and that the court’s disqualification order stands without Supreme Court review, the prosecutorial power enshrined in the CNMI Constitution will be severely undermined.

In response, Torres’ defense maintained that the court’s disqualification order is not subject to appeal, arguing that Commonwealth law prohibits interlocutory appeals in these cir-

cumstances. Aguon contended that the Office of Attorney General, despite being an elected position since a 2018 constitutional amendment, did not gain new powers that would justify a stay. He further asserted that the case should proceed without delay.

In a detailed ruling, issued Tuesday, Barcinas weighed both the potential harm to the Commonwealth and the impact on Torres. In the order he stated that while the court found that the OAG’s removal from the case raised serious constitutional issues, it also noted that the Office of the Public Auditor could take over the prosecution if necessary.

Barcinas ruled that the Commonwealth had met the threshold for granting a stay, noting that proceeding without addressing the separation of

powers concerns could lead to irreparable harm. He emphasized that allowing the case to move forward before resolving these questions could jeopardize the Commonwealth’s ability to fully prosecute Torres.

“If the trial were to go forward and a jury were to find defendant not guilty, there would be no way for the Commonwealth to remedy the final decision. Because such an outcome would effectively remove the Commonwealth’s ability to seek a conclusive resolution of this issue, the court finds that the potential harm would be irreparable,” Barcinas wrote in his decision.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MCS

From page 1

that showcased both their creativity and delivery skills.

Tenorio’s performance of “Taya Chamoru” was a poignant exploration of cultural identity and the struggle to connect with her Chamoru heritage. As she took the stage, her presence commanded attention, and her initial hesitation transformed into a powerful delivery that resonated with the audience.

With each line, Tenorio conveyed the weight of her personal experience—feeling estranged from her culture and language while surrounded by friends who seamlessly spoke Chamoru. Her voice trembled with vulnerability as she recounted the shame and confusion that often accompanied her attempts to embrace her roots. The contrast between her yearning for connection and the reality of her struggle was palpable, creating an emotional depth that drew the audience in.

Her use of vivid imagery—describing her reflection in the mirror, the warmth of family ties, and the beauty of Chamoru traditions—painted a rich tapestry of her identity. Tenorio’s passion surged as she proclaimed the significance of her culture, reminding the audience that it is more than just language; it is woven into the very fabric of who she is.

The performance culminated in a powerful affirmation of pride, as she expressed her determination to reclaim her Chamoru identity. Tneorio’s compelling delivery, marked by both fragility and strength, left a lasting impact on the audience, who responded with heartfelt applause, acknowledging her courage and the universal themes of belonging and self-discovery embedded in her performance.

Meanwhile, Feolino and Barcinas recited their original work, “Echos of Our Souls” and their performance was a powerful reflection on the fading aspects of their home’s cultural identity.

The poem vividly portrays the tension between the island’s rich heritage and the pressures of westernization. Through evocative imagery of palm trees swaying and traditions slipping like sand through fingers, they captured a sense of loss, frustration, and resilience.

Feolino and Barcinas painted a picture of a culture once vibrant and thriving, that is now overshadowed by modern influences. Yet, amidst the melancholy, their words carried a message of hope and strength, urging unity and a reclamation of their cultural legacy. They spoke of the artistry of Carolinian canoes and the songs of Chamorro ancestors, celebrating the islands’ traditions while lamenting the unraveling of identity.

Delivered with emotion and grace, the performance was both a tribute to their heritage and a call to preserve it for future generations, reminding the audience of the enduring spirit of the Marianas people.

With vivid imagery of palm trees and waves, the poem expresses a deep frustration over losing their heritage, while also celebrating resilience. Their emotional delivery highlighted the importance of reclaiming and honoring cultural identity amidst change, leaving the audience in thoughtful silence.

First time competing and winning second place, Da’ok Academy’s proud duo of Daniel Taisakan and Princess Debengek presented “Who Are We?” The duo began their recitation with a strong, confident presence, immediately drawing the audience into their exploration of self and community.

Their delivery was dynamic, alternating between them in a rhythmic flow that enhanced the poem’s emotional resonance. Taisakan’s voice carried a sense of urgency as he articulated the longing for connection to their roots, while Debengek complemented him with a soothing tone that emphasized the beauty of tradition and the complexity of contemporary existence.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ERRATUM

Saipan Tribune mistakenly referred to Jesus Villagomez’s school as Saipan International School on a Page 1 article that was published last Oct. 16. He’s from Saipan Community School. Our apologies.

GUILTY

From page 1

placed on supervised release for 60 months (or five years).

In addition, Manglona ordered that during incarceration, Songsong must pay the restitution by participating in the Bureau of Prisons Inmate Financial Responsibility Program at a minimum of \$25 per quarter provided the defendant has the funds available in his account.

Upon release from incarceration, Songsong must pay the remaining balance of restitution at a rate not less than 10% of monthly gross earning commencing 30 days from release of imprisonment.

Manglona added that the defendant shall pay more whenever possible and that resources received from any source shall be applied to the restitution still owed pursuant to Title 18 section 3664(n).

After the hearing, the defendant was remanded back to the custody of the U.S. Marshals.

According to the United States government’s restitution memorandum, they have proposed that Songsong pay \$60,000 in restitution.

“There are at least 123 known victims in this case. To date, the government has acquired 22 Victim Impact Statements and of those 22 victims, the government received nine specific restitution demands totaling an aggregate of \$60,000,” said the memorandum.

“Defendant undisputedly possessed an image or video of child pornography material involving these nine victims, which furthered the trauma endured by those victims. Each VIS submitted articulates this dark and horrific reality,” the U.S. government added.

According to Songsong’s plea agreement, on or about June 22, 2023, in the District of the Northern Mariana Islands, defendant knowingly possessed matter containing a visual depiction that had been shipped and transported using any means and facility of interstate and foreign com-

merce, and defendant knew that the production of said visual depiction involved the use of a minor—specifically, a prepubescent minor or a minor who had not attained 12 years of age—engaging in sexually explicit conduct, and that said visual depiction was of this conduct.

“Specifically, on or about June 22, 2023, defendant possessed a Samsung Galaxy A13 cellular phone, serial number R58T5Z5K3H, on defendant’s person. Defendant acquired the device in February of 2023, and used the device to access pornographic websites on the World Wide Web via the internet. During the approximate four-month period of owning the device, defendant routinely accessed pornographic websites containing material with prepubescent minors who had not yet attained twelve years of age, engaging in sexually explicit conduct (child pornography). Defendant knowingly downloaded the child pornography onto his device for his personal use. By June 22, 2023, defendant’s device contained at least 1,500 images of child pornography, and 150 videos of child pornography, which defendant personally downloaded for his use. The images and videos containing child pornography downloaded by defendant through the World Wide Web and internet were stored on databases located outside of the CNMI. Each image downloaded by defendant required transporting the images through interstate commerce,” the plea agreement states.

Songsong has a previous possession of child pornography conviction in case CR 14-18.

On Dec. 3, 2015, Songsong was convicted of possession of child pornography and was sentenced by the federal court to serve 78 months or six years and six months.

He was also ordered to pay \$5,000 restitution to one of the victims and to register as a sex offender.

In that case, Songsong pled guilty to possessing a laptop computer that contained 226 videos involving the use of minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

CCC

From page 1

Maratita, and Dwayne L. Maratita to the CCC, CEC, and MVA board respectively.

During yesterday’s hearing, the only nominee present was Manglona while Kurt and Dwayne Maratita were unable to make it to the confirmation hearing.

While Both Kurt and Dwayne Maratita gained a unanimous 5-0 vote in favor of their confirmation, Manglona gained three yes votes, one abstention, and one present vote.

Specifically, Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) abstained from voting for Manglona, while Sen. Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) voted present.

In an interview with Manglona, he shared that he appreciates all the Senators for fulfilling their role in his confirmation as well as the CNMI administration for their trust in him.

“I’m very appreciative of the appointment of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and our Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang. I’m also very appreciative

of the confirmation process and the Senators for confirming me this afternoon,” he said.

When asked what his first course of action would be as a newly confirmed and sworn-in CCC commissioner, he said he intends to collaborate and communicate with sitting commissioners to move forward with current issues plaguing the Commission.

“I look forward to working with the other commissioners to move forward through the many issues we are currently facing. With a lot of collaboration and communication with stakeholders, I think we can move forward. First, I have to sit down with all of the members to discuss what issues we have to tackle first,” he said.

As for the ongoing revocation proceedings in regards to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC’s exclusive casino license, he said he reserves his comments for a later time.

“As you know, the case remains active in court so I’d prefer not to comment at this moment. Maybe at a later time,” he said.

CCC chair Edward Deleon Guerrero, in is public comments, stated that he looks forward to having another commissioner on the CCC board as it would finally establish quorum allowing the CCC to push forward with important matter such as revocation proceedings, as well as finding ways to acquire more funding for the CCC.

Up until Manglona’s confirmation yesterday, the CCC had two commissioners and one chair while it needed three commissioners to establish quorum.

While he is happy that CCC now has a Rota representative, Deleon Guerrero also urges Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to fill the commission’s Tinian position.

Meanwhile, CEC board chair Susan Babauta also provided public comments in support of Kurt Maratita’s confirmation.

She stated in her comments that now more than ever, it is important that CEC fill its vacant Rota seat as elections are coming up and the CEC is in need of all the help it can get to smoothly run the long-anticipated event.

IN CELEBRATION OF BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

175 take part in CCA's 'Hakuna-My-Tatas Zumbathon'



CCA

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's "Hakuna-My-Tatas Zumbathon" last Oct. 12 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium raised over \$5,000 and attracted a total of 175 participants.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association hosted the "Hakuna-My-Tatas Zumbathon" as part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month last Oct. 12.

The event took place from 5pm to 8pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, attracting over 175 attendees. The CCA team is pleased to report that the fundraiser generated proceeds exceeding \$5,000.

Franko Deleon Guerrero,

CCA Community Outreach and Marketing coordinator, led the planning and organization of the event, with support from Mercilia Teigita, the Client Services and Administrative coordinator, who served as emcee.

The CCA team selected a Zumba-themed fundraiser to promote fitness and healthy

weight management, which can help reduce the risk of breast cancer. The Zumba class featured three talented Zumba groups—670 I Love Zumba led

by zin Marina Reyes, Unity Is Love Zumba Dance Fitness led by zin Abby Whang, and XTREME Fitness670 led by zin Mitch Olita and coach Angelo Galfo.

The CCA team expresses its heartfelt gratitude to these remarkable instructors for their dedication and for generously donating their time and expertise in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

During the fundraiser, the CCA team partnered up with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Department of Public Health, which provided blood pressure and blood

sugar checks. The CCA team and the attendees were grateful that CHCC was providing their services at no cost.

The CCA team would also like to thank their sponsors and donors for making the "Hakuna-My-Tatas" Breast Cancer Awareness Month fundraiser a success, such as Tan Holdings, Take Care Insurance, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., Joeten Motors, Atkins Kroll,

Calvo's Insurance, Saipan Stevedore Co., Inc., The Athletes Foot, Boardline, All Star Sporting Goods, Angry Penné, Kiara's Gift Shop, 670 Rocksteady, D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd., Golds Gym Saipan, Ina's Kitchen, IT&E, Marianas Pacific Distribution, McDonald's Saipan and Gyam, Pacific Island Club Saipan, S.T.A.R. Marianas, Saipan Ice & Water Co., T-Bar, Saipan World Resort, Pizza Hut, and more.

The CCA team extends its sincere gratitude to all attendees and advocates for their invaluable support in making the event a success. They encourage all women to prioritize their health by being Breast Aware. For information on eligibility requirements for a free health check-up, contact the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program at (670) 236-8711. Early awareness significantly reduces the risk of later-stage breast cancer diagnosis. (PR)

SSHS, KHS battalions clean up Mt. Carmel Cemetery



PHOTOS BY C2LT BRIT MALABANAN AND C/1LT WEIHALANI QUINATA

Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion and the Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion conducted a cleanup of Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa last Oct. 12.



The Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion teamed up with the Kagman High School Ayuyu Battalion to clean up Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa last Oct. 12.

Along with their instructors, CSM Richard Basa (SSHS), CPT James Burke (KHS), and SFC Siruelo Giovani (KHS), cadets were up bright and early from 8am to 11a.m. to take the initiative to assist the community. They were provided with gloves, trash bags, and bottled water. With more than 100 cadets participating, the battalions split into groups and worked hard in the scorching heat while

focusing on cleaning the weathered wreaths, damaged candles, and other wastes.

The cleanup wrapped up as the Manta Ray Battalion took charge on the right side of the cemetery and the Ayuyu Battalion on the left. Both battalions worked hard together and, ultimately, had a fantastic time cleaning up. Altogether, they filled two large dumpsters with more than 100 trash bags. The battalions were glad they can give their time to the community and make a positive impact. Thank you to all cadets who worked hard for this community service. (C/ Cpt. Shanna Villaluz)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petitioner for the Change of Name of:] FCD CN CIVIL] ACTION NO.] 24-0358]
L.C.] NOTICE OF HEARING]
Minor Child(ren)]
By:]
YONGMEI HUANG]
Petitioner(s)]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing in November 19, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Teresa Kim-Tenorio.
Dated this 12th day of September, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ _____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Name: Susan Chen
Address: Puti Tainobiu Ave. Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 783-1013
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petitioner for the Change of Name of:] FCD CN CIVIL] ACTION NO.] 24-0359]
L.C.] NOTICE OF HEARING]
Susan Chen]
Petitioner]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing in November 19, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Honorable Teresa Kim-Tenorio.
Dated this 12th day of September, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ _____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-001-25

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 31, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING PAPI AND REIL LIGHTS AND INSTALL NEW PAPI AND REIL LIGHTS AT THE BTM ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF \$100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING PAPI/REIL LIGHTS AND INSTALL NEW PAPI/REIL LIGHTS (IFB-001-25)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 31, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 540-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

Ap The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Dream: DACA holders' fate once again in judges' hands

Once more, the Federal Court of Appeals in New Orleans is weighing the fate of more than a half million so-called Dreamers covered by the DACA program, who've been able to avoid deportation and receive work authorization through the now-12-year-old program. It's the second time this case, brought by Texas and other states, comes before the appeals panel after Texas Federal Judge Andrew Hanen twice ruled it unlawful.

Imagine how hard it would be for you to plan out anything about your life—where and whether to go to college or grad school, whether to buy a home or take a job or have a child—if a court could without warning upend your ability to keep living in the country where you've spent, at the very least, your whole adult life and then some. There are many Dreamers for whom the part of their lives spent outside the United States is not just a distant memory but no memory at all, having come here as very young children.

Yet they are stuck in this limbo because Congress, which has now reached the point of celebrating when it passes a stopgap spending measure instead of allowing the government to shut down, has been unable to move on the forever-popular policy of providing a path to citizenship. Versions of the DREAM Act are now nearing a quarter century of successive reintroductions, getting at times nearer than others to passage, but never meaningfully close.

It's been introduced as a standalone "clean" bill, tacked onto other bills, as part of broader so-called reform efforts, and none of it has managed to pass.

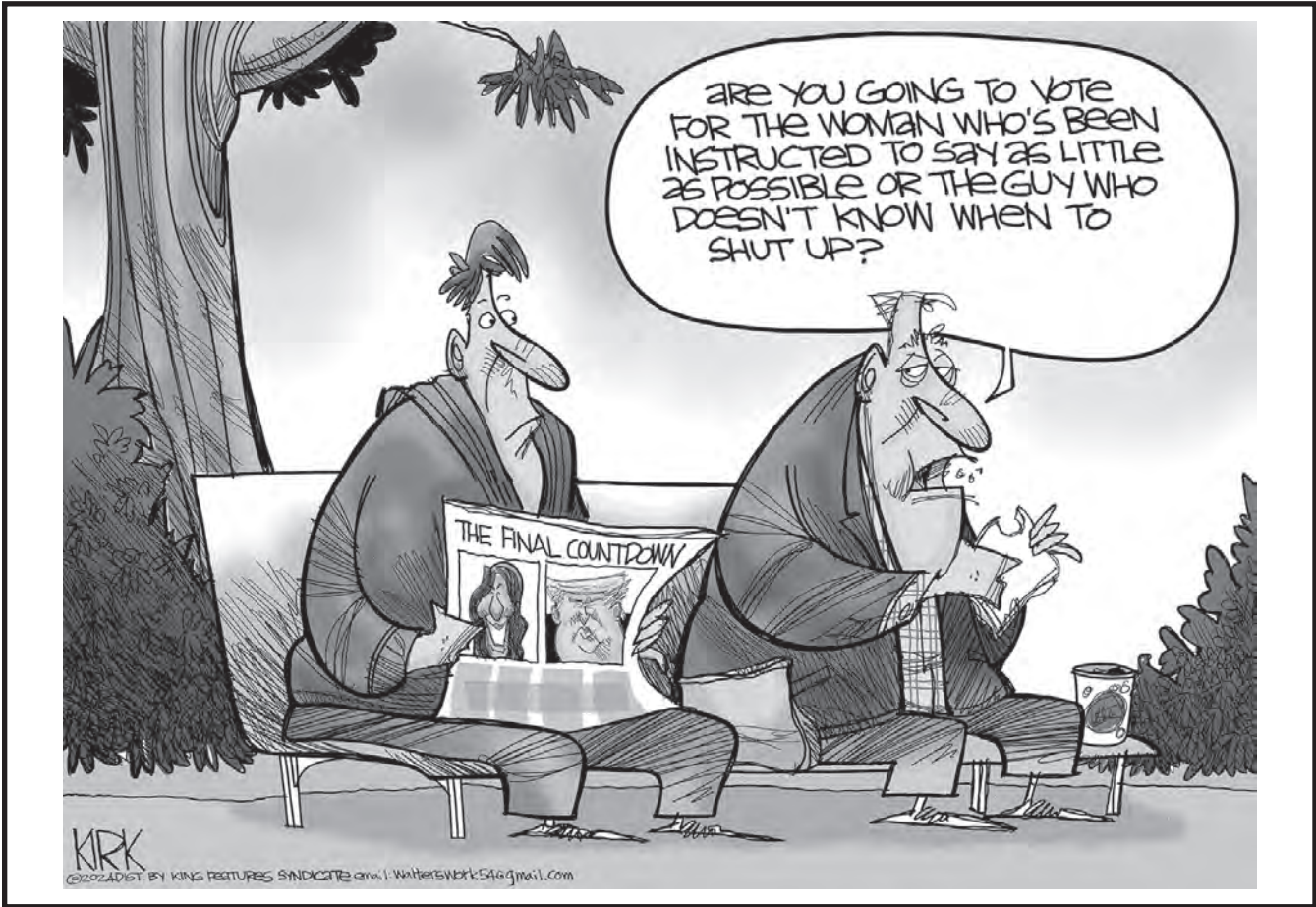
This is despite the fact that Dreamers are and have always been broadly popular on both sides of the aisle and with the voting public, who understand them as being American. That over two decades on they haven't gotten this basic recognition of civic and political belonging is not for any reason other than the political cowardice and clumsiness of elected officials that have found it easy to ignore a constituency that by definition cannot vote.

Even immigrant-basher Donald Trump once espoused support for a path to citizenship for Dreamers—albeit in exchange for funding for his beloved border wall and other restrictionist agenda items—before turning heel and trying to terminate the program. This effort was blocked by the U.S. Supreme Court for the rather obviously capricious way in which Trump tried to do it, not rooted in any broader governmental objectives but only in animus.

Yet the justices pointed out that any president could, going through the proper process, terminate the program. The only reason that did not happen was because Trump—despite his frequent refusal to acknowledge this fact—lost the election, and Joe Biden reversed course. Now, Texas and other states are trying to drive the nail in the coffin, with some success, as Judge Hanen and the appeals panel have to some extent ruled against it.

DACA recipients around the country work in essentially every field, from creative to high-tech, have millions of U.S. citizen spouses and children, and create jobs. It's well past time to grant them the simple freedoms that their native-born peers have always had.

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The high stakes of skipping your yearly COVID-19 shot

Every parent wants to keep their family safe. We want our children to be healthy and enjoy the activities and milestones of adolescence. We yearn to grow old alongside our partners and to celebrate many more birthdays and holidays with our own parents.

This deep-seated desire for safety and togetherness spurred many of us into action when the COVID-19 vaccine first became available more than three years ago. After a year marked by isolation and fear for our loved ones' health, most Americans eagerly lined up to get their initial shots.

Yet, in 2024, I fear we've created a false sense of security. Seventy percent of Americans were fully vaccinated from COVID-19 in 2022, but only 22% got an updated vaccine last year. An updated vaccine — designed to help your body produce antibodies against the most likely currently circulating strains of the virus — offers crucial protection against severe illness, hospitalization and death. Unfortunately, our hospitals are already feeling the strain of declining vaccination rates. Some 34,000 Americans have died from COVID-19 in 2024 alone, with thousands more hospitalized and hundreds succumbing weekly.

Like so many, I felt a wave of relief when my family completed our initial vaccinations. Finally, we could enjoy life with a renewed sense of safety.

That's why my family continues to get vaccinated every year. My daughter is receiving her updated COVID-19 vaccine to minimize her chances of falling ill before her high school homecoming dance. My wife, who is battling cancer, knows that a COVID-19 infection could pose severe complications. My elderly parents, both in high-risk categories, receive their vaccinations to protect their health. And as someone who travels frequently for work, I get vaccinated to reduce the risk of bringing the virus home.

Yet almost 80% of the public doesn't share our sense of urgency. To be frank, the medical and public health community has struggled to effectively communicate the importance of annual COVID-19 vaccinations. Immunity wanes, and the virus mutates; it's not a one-and-done scenario. People need yearly updates for optimal protection against circulating strains.

Many are underestimating the dangers of remaining unvaccinated. Millions of Americans are at high risk, yet many don't recognize themselves as such. Approximately 7 in 10 adults have a risk factor for severe COVID-19 symptoms. Conditions such as high blood pressure increase the risk fourfold, while chronic lung diseases raise it sixfold, and diabetes raises it threefold.

The most significant risk factor for poor COVID-19 outcomes remains age: Adults ages 65 and older account for two-thirds of

By **JEROME M. ADAMS**
Chicago Tribune

Dr. Jerome M. Adams, MPH, was the 20th surgeon general of the United States.



COVID-19 hospitalizations and more than 81% of in-hospital deaths. Alarming, only about 40% of Americans in that age group received a COVID-19 vaccine last year.

Even healthy adults and children can suffer long-term symptoms from a COVID-19 infection. As a parent, this is one of my greatest concerns. The risk of long-term symptoms, known as long COVID, increases with each infection, even if it's a mild case. About 7% of U.S. adults — nearly 18 million people — report enduring symptoms such as shortness of breath, extreme fatigue and brain fog. While there is no known cure for long COVID, recent studies indicate that vaccination can reduce the risk of developing these chronic symptoms by up to 70%.

No one wants to miss work, school or cherished moments because of a severe infection or lingering symptoms. We've already lost too many special occasions during the peak of the pandemic. We all want to gather safely with loved ones at Thanksgiving, go on planned vacations and celebrate life's joyous moments, whether it's weddings or the joy of new babies. We want to visit our loved ones in nursing homes without the fear of causing an outbreak while doing so. We want to gather safely with our friends, and we can do this more assuredly if everyone is vaccinated.

COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to significantly lower risk of hospitalization and death and have been safely administered to billions of people worldwide. As with any health recommendation, it's understandable that people will have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine — and they should always consult their doctors or trusted health care providers. It's vital that we take our health seriously, seek answers and engage in compassionate conversations about vaccination.

Updated COVID-19 vaccines are now available nationwide, and the time to act is now. Let's prioritize our health, protect our loved ones and cherish the moments that matter. Together, we can navigate this ongoing challenge with vigilance and care.

‘I don’t know’ is the best weapon science has right now

When COVID hit the U.S. and many public health experts were trying to act strong and confident, epidemiologist Michael Osterholm took a different approach. Asked about the novel coronavirus, he often replied honestly, “I don’t know.”

But Osterholm, now 71, knew at least as much as anyone else about infectious disease. He had spent his career investigating outbreaks, including bird flu in Vietnam, Ebola in Africa, HIV in the United States, SARS in Asia and MERS as an advisor for the royal family in the United Arab Emirates. When COVID broke out, he was director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy in Minnesota, a position he still holds.

Osterholm’s approach to the pandemic—admitting uncertainty, declining to offer false hope, carefully explaining why he believes what he does, avoiding the political fray and staying nonjudgmental when guiding the misinformed—could be a template for how to restore trust in public health and science to a country that desperately needs it. I reached out to him to learn more about his personal philosophy of communication, and to see if his experience guiding his audience through the worst of COVID-19 could help create a roadmap other scientists might follow in the future.

As the virus spread from China to Europe to the U.S. the public was desperate for answers. But Osterholm says he tried to provide context while also explaining the limits of his knowledge—which he did in editorials for the Washington Post and interviews with mainstream media sources—including me. “What I knew was just a thimble of information compared to a Lake Superior’s worth of questions,” he told me of those early days of 2020.

Despite those unknowns, part of his commitment to transparency meant he didn’t shy away from sharing his fears—in contrast with the reassuring approach many other experts were taking at the time. In January and February of 2020, Osterholm was concerned that the new virus might explode into a dangerous global pandemic. He submitted warnings to the major medical journals, which turned them down and continued to run pieces with the message that influenza remained the bigger danger.

By March, Osterholm was predicting that the disease might kill hundreds of thousands of Americans within 18 months. He was right. About 700,000 had died by October of 2021, with the total U.S. death toll now reaching more than 1 million.

Despite these fears, his tone remained consistently kind and nuanced at a time when snark and bluster were driving engagement online and in the media. “He’s very thoughtful, in every sense ... a deep expert,” said Brown University’s dean of public health, Ashish Jha, who was the White House COVID-19 response coordinator under President Joe Biden. Jha said he sometimes called Osterholm to tap into that expertise as he wrestled with questions of pandemic policy.

Osterholm’s treat-the-public-like-adults approach is perhaps why, in early 2020, he was asked to be a guest on the Joe Rogan Experience, one of the most popular podcasts in the world. “I’d never done a podcast,” he said, “and I’d never heard of Joe Rogan.” But he trusted his staff, and they told him he should do it, so he flew to Los Angeles and did the interview on March 10, 2020.

“He asked a lot of good questions,” Osterholm says of Rogan. That includes questions that put the epidemiologist in the uncomfortable position of bucking the scientific party line. When Rogan asked why the experts seemed divided between those predicting an apocalypse and those insisting the virus was less threatening than the flu, Osterholm says he answered

honestly: Some in the public health community were trying not to panic people.

That’s far from his own approach, which he’s described as trying, “not to scare people out of their wits—but to scare people into their wits.” He did so on Rogan’s show, as he often does, by turning to the data: Reports from China, where the virus first emerged, suggested COVID was much more of a danger to people over 75, as well as those with certain health problems, such as obesity, he explained. He also cited early data pointing to a number of factors that hadn’t yet been publicly recognized by parts of the scientific community, but would soon prove accurate: that the disease was spread primarily through the air, that it would likely circulate for months if not years, and that loose surgical masks and hand sanitizer could not offer reliable protection.

When he got home, Osterholm saw that the episode had 10.5 million downloads—and a long string of appreciative comments. “I thought, wow, this is how you reach people.” Within a month he had launched his own podcast, The Osterholm Update.

The format was a good fit for a scientist who had a lot to share with the public, but never took to social media. (“That’s just not my style,” he says of Twitter, where overconfidence and outrage generate virality.) His team told me the show has been downloaded 6.5 million times and counting, with the most popular episode nearing 90,000 listeners. It still comes out every other week.

Osterholm wasn’t entirely sure how to approach the podcast at first, but seemed to find his voice when he dedicated an early episode to a friend who had died. “I said some very personal things that were not planned,” he says. He’s continued to use the outlet to share his human side. He told listeners he’d grown up in rural Iowa, one of six siblings with an abusive, alcoholic father. He said he became fascinated with medicine when a local newspaper editor gave him copies of the New Yorker, where he became enthralled by the medical detective stories by legendary staff writer Berton Roueche. It was the following of clues—the curiosity-driven investigation, he says, that hooked him.

Being a good detective—or a good scientist—means recognizing uncertainty and being willing to change your mind when new information surfaces. Brown’s Jha points out that during the early days of the pandemic, politicians and their scientific advisors didn’t have the ability to wait for all the facts; they had to make major policy decisions amid uncertainty and scientific disagreement. At the same time, they were facing an unpredictable stream of misinformation, and a president who often undermined their efforts—stating publicly with confidence that the virus would “go away” “like a miracle,” or that the drug hydroxychloroquine would be “one of the biggest game changers in the history of medicine.”

But to Osterholm, facing such challenges calls for nuance. That means not overstating certainty or flattening complicated scientific reality into blunt slogans like “vaccines work,” which, over time, erode public trust. He identifies the explosion of cases in mid-2021, when even vaccinated people were getting sick with the Delta variant, as a proof point. Officials hadn’t done enough to share the unknowns, he says: “It looked like we lied.”

“In public health,” he says, “We tell people what they’re supposed to hear, but we don’t tell them how we got there.”

When he took oppositional stances—as he did when he came out against lockdowns and early masking policy that recommended cloth and surgical masks—he did his best to explain what data he was relying on and why he believed a certain policy would or would not accomplish the goal. He took listeners in-

By F.D. FLAM

Bloomberg Opinion

F.D. Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering science. She is host of the “Follow the Science” podcast.



side his own decisions, explaining why he continued to wear an N95 in public long after mandates were removed (he considered himself at elevated risk because of his age) and why he made safety trade-offs, like having small, unmasked dinner parties with friends in 2023, using rapid tests as a precaution.

His role, as he sees it, isn’t to evangelize—it’s to provide a space where anyone can ask questions and get a trustworthy answer. The podcast has also been a place where people could find a sympathetic ear if they were feeling fearful or isolated.

His reward has been the sense, he says, that he’s paying forward kindness others have shown him. He’s also been gratified by the positive—or at least constructive—feedback he’s received. “I can’t tell you how many emails I’ve gotten from people who touched my life immensely,” he says.

Of course, it hasn’t always been easy. Trying to communicate in the midst of an unfolding crisis, with science that’s still in flux, can be frustrating for everyone involved. “We don’t have the answers people want us to have,” he says. There’s also the reality that no matter how plainly you speak, some listeners won’t be open to what you have to say.

In 2021, Osterholm was invited to do a second interview with Joe Rogan, who by then had been widely criticized for allowing fringe scientists to spread misinformation on his show. Some might have turned it down, but Osterholm says he believed he could better serve Rogan’s massive audience by going on and offering them facts, even if many would discount them. The conversation lasted almost two and a half hours, and he believes it allowed him to get his message out.

The epidemiologist says he occasionally received hate mail and threats, including some aimed at his family—in one case from someone claiming to know where his daughter and grandchildren lived. Pleasing even devoted fans can be hard: When he told listeners he’d finally stopped routinely wearing an N95 mask, some felt abandoned and betrayed. “This wasn’t arbitrary,” he told me. The data showed cases were way down, and he’d thought through his personal balance of risk against the benefit of living normally. He’ll mask up again if the situation calls for it, he says.

These days, his listeners are particularly interested in the H5N1 flu virus that’s infected cows and several dairy workers. In his most recent interviews, he raised the chilling possibility that the udders of infected cows could be the breeding site of a new pandemic virus. All it would take, he says, would be for a dairy worker carrying human flu to pass the virus to a cow that also carried H5N1. But at the moment at least, he disagrees with colleagues who say an H5N1 pandemic could be imminent.

“It’s really important to understand that no one—and I mean no one—knows what H5N1 influenza virus is going to do to the human population,” he said on an episode titled Uncharted Territory. “If we continue to say we’re on the edge of a pandemic and in a year or two we don’t see that happen, we will see another loss of credibility in public health.”

Vigilance and caution are good. But presenting guesses as fact ignores the hard-won lessons of the past four years. The reality is, once again, we just don’t know.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ripple effects of unemployment

Dear CNMI community,

I humbly ask for your attention and awareness as we reflect on the path we have been heading down in recent years.

When individuals are unemployed, their ability to spend is significantly reduced. Without income, they are unable to purchase goods and services, which directly affects businesses. As consumer spending declines, businesses experience reduced revenue, which impacts their ability to sustain operations, pay employees, and invest in future growth. As a result, the overall CNMI economy begins to suffer from the lack of money circulating through it.

This reduction in spending creates a ripple effect through-

out the economy. With less business activity, tax revenues generated from sales and income also decline, leaving fewer funds available for government programs and infrastructure. Consequently, the CNMI government may find it more challenging to stimulate economic growth or provide essential support to those in need.

As the CNMI’s economic situation worsens, people become more reserved and cautious with their money, further reducing consumer spending. This creates a domino effect: businesses struggle, more jobs are lost, and the economy spirals downward. This cycle of unemployment, reduced spending, and economic contraction will persist unless we intervene to break the cycle. Solutions like job creation programs, financial support, or incen-

tives to boost spending and investment are crucial to reversing this trend.

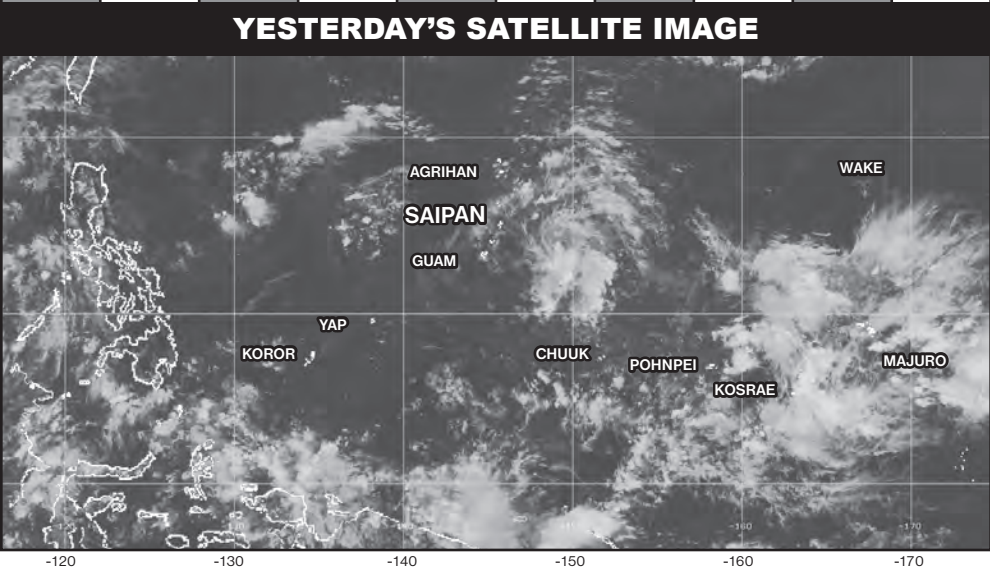
As we approach the elections, it’s crucial that we ask our leaders—Republicans, independents, and Democrats alike—to set aside partisan differences and work together to revitalize our economy and build a stronger future for the CNMI. Our community deserves leaders who can deliver real results. If they can’t rise to the challenge, it’s time to vote for those who can.

Sincerely,

Frankie Manglona
Dandan Village

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms developing by early afternoon. Light and variable winds becoming north around 10 mph in the afternoon.		Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
87°	77°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	77°	87°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 6:29 AM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

ARW and FV3 high res models both forecast island convection for Guam today, and GFS20 attempts to. The GEFSwave model suggests the chance of winds exceeding 7 knots is only 10%, meaning the chance of 7 knots or less is 90%. So, put island convection in for this afternoon. The other main change was to update the winds and gusts to resolve some consistency issues. Otherwise very little change was needed.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Palau	Sunny	84° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:08 AM	5:55 PM
Friday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Saturday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Sunday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Monday	6:09 AM	5:53 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:32 AM	5:41 PM
Friday	-	6:33 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	-	7:37 AM	7:18 PM
Sunday	-	8:43 AM	8:13 PM
Monday	-	9:49 AM	9:12 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 55°	
Beijing	Cloudy	55° / 46°	
Hong Kong	Showers	88° / 75°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	66° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 58°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	66° / 45°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
New York	Cloudy	67° / 62°	
Osaka	Rain	70° / 64°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 52°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 63°	
Rome	Sunny	77° / 55°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	87° / 67°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 50°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	70° / 48°	
Tokyo	Showers	66° / 61°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	67° / 61°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:07 AM	Low Tide	0.17	
7:13 AM	High Tide	1.99	
1:19 PM	Low Tide	0.45	
7:07 PM	High Tide	2.06	

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily up to Oct 26	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
				7C2306/3211	11:10PM	3:30PM+1	Daily from Oct 27
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily from Oct 28	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily up to Oct 26
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily up to Oct 27	7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily from Oct 27
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily up to Oct 27
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily from Oct 27	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Chamber introduces board of directors nominees

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
 raxfloyd@gmail.com
 CORRESPONDENT

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce recently introduced six board of directors nominees for its 2025-2026 term.

The nominees are Angil Design, Inc. president Ron Smith, IT&E Government/Community Relations senior manager Janice Tenorio, Century Insurance Inc. general manager Gol Corpuz, Naked Fish Bar & Grill owner and Transcend Consulting's Joe Guerrero, Bank of Saipan president and chief executive officer John Arroyo, and Docomo Pacific senior consumer sales manager Nicole Babauta.

Smith has been a Chamber member for 21 years and has served on the board of directors for three terms. He is also actively engaged in the Chamber's Government Relations Committee and volunteers his technical support for the Chamber office.

He is running for a board position because he believes that he can make a positive



Corpuz



Tenorio



Guerrero



Arroyo



Babauta



Smith

contribution to the board through strong consensus building and a significant contribution towards the concise formulation of board statements and policies.

Tenorio, a previous Chamber coordinator and a Chamber member for 29 years, seeks to honor her late father's legacy, former Chamber president Sylvo Castro Ada, while leveraging her strong government and community connections to benefit the Chamber.

She holds an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from San Diego State University and has served as chairperson of the CNMI State Board of Education for two terms. She now serves on the CUC board as chairwoman.

Corpuz, a Chamber mem-

ber for 31 years, hopes to bring a new face and ideas to the board and to find ways that benefit the Chamber.

He is a licensed mechanical engineer, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and has played various roles such as resident agent/ branch manager in Guam, and now a general manager on Saipan. He also serves as the president for Northern Marianas Insurance Association in his fifth term, wherein he previously served as treasurer, vice president, and director.

Guerrero, who has held the Chamber president position since 2022, has been a member of the Chamber for over two decades and served on the Chamber's board since 2019.

He has a deep knowledge of the CNMI's business landscape and excels in business development and consulting.

He is a Bachelor of Arts Business Administration degree holder from Washington State University and an MBA from the University of Oregon. His experience extends to serving on various boards, including the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the CNMI Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, among others.

When Guerrero is not working, he prefers to do deep-bottom fishing.

Arroyo has been a member of the Chamber for 38 years and has served on the board of directors for one term.

He holds a Bachelor of

Business Administration from the University of Guam and an MBA from Oregon State University. He also served on various boards including the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter and NMC Foundation. He's also been a member of the Rotary Club of Saipan since 2019.

In Arroyo's spare time, he enjoys fishing, sailing, traveling, and spending time with his wife JoAnn and son Christian.

Babauta has been a Chamber member for 27 years, previously served on the board for two terms, and hopes to improve the community's economy by helping businesses prosper, delivering measurable value to Chamber members, and supporting the growth and development of Chamber staff.

She holds a Bachelor of Sci-

ence in Business Management with a concentration in Global Business Management and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. She serves on the CNMI State Workforce Board and SHRM CNMI Chapter.

Each of the nominees was qualified based on the established criteria to run as a board member, wherein they have made a meaningful contribution to the Chamber in various capacities. Their dedication and leadership have played a vital role in advancing the Chamber's mission, and they each bring unique strengths and perspectives to the organization.

The voting of the new board of directors will take place during the Chamber's November general membership meeting on Nov. 13 at the Queen's Hall of Kensington Hotel.

Protesters demand Kellogg remove artificial colors from Froot Loops and other cereals

Dozens of people rallied outside the Michigan headquarters of WK Kellogg Co. Tuesday, demanding that the company remove artificial dyes from its breakfast cereals in the U.S.

Kellogg, the maker of Froot Loops and Apple Jacks, announced nearly a decade ago that it would remove artificial colors and ingredients from its products by 2018.

The company has done that in other countries. In Canada, for example, Froot Loops are colored with concentrated carrot juice, watermelon juice and blueberry juice. But in the U.S., the cereal still contains artificial colors and BHT, a chemical preservative.

On Tuesday, activists said they were delivering petitions with more than 400,000 signatures asking WK Kellogg to remove artificial dyes and BHT from their cereals. Protesters said there was evidence that artificial dyes can contribute to behavioral issues in children.

"I'm here for all the mothers who struggle to feed their kids healthy food without added chemicals," said Vani Hari, a food activist who previously pressured Kraft Heinz to remove artificial dyes from its macaroni and cheese.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says it has reviewed and evaluated the effects of color additives on children's behavior but believes that most children have no adverse effects when consuming them.

Battle Creek, Michigan-based WK Kellogg became a separate company last year when its snack division was

spun off to form Kellanova. Kellanova kept the company's international cereal business; it now makes Froot Loops with natural dyes for markets like Australia and the United Kingdom.

WK Kellogg said Tuesday that its foods are safe and all of its ingredients comply with federal regulations.

"Today, more than 85% of our cereal sales contain no colors from artificial sources," the company said in a statement. "We continuously innovate new cereals that do not contain colors from artificial sources across our biggest brands, offering a broad choice of nourishing foods for our consumers."

Kellogg said it announced its plan to remove artificial colors and ingredients almost a decade ago because it believed customers were seeking foods with natural ingredients and would welcome the change. But the company said it found that consumer preferences differed widely across markets.

"For example, there is better reception to our cereal recipes that utilize natural-color alternatives within the Canadian market than in the U.S.," the company said.

Still, Kellogg may have to reconsider. Last month, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom of California signed a bill banning six food dyes from food served in the state's public schools, making it the first state in the U.S. to take such a step.

California's law bans four of the dyes now used in Froot Loops: Red Dye No. 40, Yellow Dye No. 5, Yellow Dye No. 6 and Blue Dye No. 1. (AP)

Trump's economic plans would worsen inflation, experts say

WASHINGTON (AP)—With characteristic bravado, Donald Trump has vowed that if voters return him to the White House, "inflation will vanish completely."

It's a message tailored for Americans who are still exasperated by the jump in consumer prices that began 3 1/2 years ago.

Yet most mainstream economists say Trump's policy proposals wouldn't vanquish inflation. They'd make it worse. They warn that his plans to impose huge tariffs on imported goods, deport millions of migrant workers and demand a voice in the Federal Reserve's interest rate policies would likely send prices surging.

Sixteen Nobel Prize-winning economists signed a letter in June expressing fear that Trump's proposals would "reignite" inflation, which has plummeted since peaking at 9.1% in 2022 and is nearly back to the Fed's 2% target.

Last month, the Peterson Institute for International Economics predicted that Trump's policies would drive consumer prices sharply higher two years into his second term. Peterson's analysis concluded that inflation, which would otherwise register 1.9% in 2026, would instead jump to between 6% and 9.3% if Trump's economic proposals were adopted.

Many economists aren't thrilled with Vice President Kamala Harris' economic agenda, either. They dismiss, for example, her proposal to combat price gouging as an ineffective tool against high grocery prices. But they don't regard her policies as particularly inflationary.

Moody's Analytics has estimated that Harris' policies would leave the inflation outlook virtually unchanged, even if she enjoyed a Democratic majority in both chambers of Congress. An unfettered Trump, by contrast, would leave prices higher by 1.1 percentage points in 2025 and 0.8 percentage points in 2026.

Taxes on imports—tariffs—are Trump's go-to economic policy. He argues that tariffs protect American factory jobs from foreign competition and deliver a host of other benefits.

While in office, Trump started a trade war with China, imposing high tariffs on most Chinese goods. He also raised import taxes on foreign steel and aluminum, washing machines and solar panels. He has grander plans for a second term: Trump wants to impose a 60% tariff on all Chinese goods and a "universal" tariff of 10% or 20% on everything else that enters the United States.

Trump insists that the cost

of taxing imported goods is absorbed by the foreign countries. The truth is that U.S. importers pay the tariff—and then typically pass along that cost to consumers in the form of higher prices. Americans themselves end up bearing the cost.

Kimberly Clausing and Mary Lovely of the Peterson Institute have calculated that Trump's proposed 60% tax on Chinese imports and his high-end 20% tariff on everything else would, in combination, impose an after-tax loss on a typical American household of \$2,600 a year.

The Trump campaign notes that U.S. inflation remained low even as Trump aggressively imposed tariffs as president.

But Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said that the magnitude of Trump's current tariff proposals has vastly changed the calculations. "The Trump tariffs in 2018-19 didn't have as large an impact as the tariffs were only just over \$300 billion in mostly Chinese imports," he said. "The former president is now talking about tariffs on over \$3 trillion in imported goods."

And the inflationary backdrop was different during Trump's first term when the Fed worried that inflation was too low, not too high.

Trump, who has invoked in-

cendary rhetoric about immigrants, has promised the "largest deportation operation" in U.S. history.

Many economists say the increased immigration over the past couple years helped tame inflation while avoiding a recession.

The surge in foreign-born workers has made it easier for fill vacancies. That helps cool inflation by easing the pressure on employers to sharply raise pay and to pass on their higher labor costs by increasing prices.

Net immigration — arrivals minus departures — reached 3.3 million in 2023, more than triple what the government had expected. Employers needed the new arrivals. As the economy roared back from pandemic lockdowns, companies struggled to hire enough workers to keep up with customer orders.

Immigrants filled the gap. Over the past four years, the number of people in the United States who either have a job or are looking for one rose by nearly 8.5 million. Roughly 72% of them were foreign born.

Wendy Edelberg and Tara Watson of the Brookings Institution found that by raising the supply of workers, the influx of immigrants allowed the United States to generate jobs without overheating the economy.

World

AFTER PRESENTING IT TO WESTERN ALLIES

Zelenskyy to unveil 'victory plan' to Ukrainian lawmakers

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was set to at least partially unveil a plan to win the war against Russia to his country's Parliament on Wednesday after weeks of dropping hints about the blueprint to lukewarm Western allies, including U.S. President Joe Biden.

The plan—comprising mili-

tary, political, diplomatic and economic elements—is considered by many as Ukraine's last resort to strengthen its hand in any future cease-fire negotiations with Russia. Thus far, however, no country has publicly endorsed it or commented on its feasibility.

Zelenskyy is keen to get the "victory plan" in place before a new U.S. president is sworn in next year, though Ukrainian

officials say neither presidential candidate will necessarily improve Kyiv's standing in the war.

Zelenskyy's presentation to Parliament, announced on Monday by presidential adviser Serhii Leshchenko, comes during a bleak moment in Ukraine. The country's military is suffering losses along the eastern front

as Russian forces inch closer to a strategically significant victory near the crucial logistics hub of Pokrovsk.

At every turn, Kyiv is outnumbered by Moscow: The country is struggling to replenish ranks with an unpopular mobilization drive; its ammunition stocks are limited; and Russia's



Zelenskyy

superiority in the skies is wreaking havoc for Ukrainian defensive lines.

It's not clear how much of his victory plan Zelenskyy will reveal on Wednesday; Leshchenko indicated that it would be fully unveiled, while other officials suggested that the president would not divulge its most sensitive elements to all lawmakers.

Either way, the plan essentially puts Kyiv's future in the hands of its allies. Without it, any deal with Russia would almost certainly be unfavorable for Ukraine, which has lost a fifth of its territory and tens of thousands of lives in the conflict. Kyiv would be unlikely to ever recover occupied territory, or receive reparations for widespread destruction across the country.

Several elements of the plan have already come to light: making Ukraine a member of NATO; allowing the coun-

try to use Western long-range weapons to strike deep inside Russia; providing resources to strengthen Ukraine's air and other defenses, and intensifying sanctions against Russia.

Ukraine's surprise military incursion into Russia's Kursk region in August was also part of the plan, Zelenskyy told reporters. He said the 1,000 square kilometers (386 square miles) of territory captured by Ukraine—along with other provisions of the plan—will likely serve as a bargaining chip in negotiations with Russia.

NATO's Article 5 states that an attack against one member is considered an attack against all. Ukraine's inclusion in the alliance would deter Russian President Vladimir Putin from invading again, Ukrainian officials argue. Western leaders have so far been reluctant to guarantee an invitation, fearing escalation from Putin.

Hezbollah vows to expand attacks in Israel after deadly strike in Lebanon's Christian heartland

AITO, Lebanon (AP)—The day after a deadly Israeli airstrike in northern Lebanon—far from Hezbollah's main area of influence—the militant group's acting leader said it would aim rockets into more areas of Israel.

Naim Kassem said Hezbollah is focused on "hurting the enemy," and he signaled it would ramp up attacks further south in Israel. He mentioned the cities of Tel Aviv and Hai-

fa, which have already been targets of attacks.

His comments in a pre-recorded, televised speech were delivered on the same day the United States said it sent a small team of troops to Israel to support an American-made missile-defense system.

The Biden administration has also sent a warning to Israel: Increase the amount of humanitarian aid it allows into Gaza within the next 30 days or risk losing access to U.S.

weapons funding.

Hezbollah has fired an estimated 13,000 rockets into Israel over the past year in support of Hamas' war with Israel in Gaza. Tens of thousands of northern Israelis have been displaced from their homes, and Israel has said its escalating war with Hezbollah is aimed at stopping those rockets so families can return home.

Israel's military said Hezbollah fired over 90 projec-

tiles into Israel on Tuesday, with no details.

On Monday, an Israeli airstrike on an apartment building in northern Lebanon killed at least 22 people. Israel said it struck a target belonging to Hezbollah, but the United Nations on Tuesday called for an independent investigation.

"We have real concerns with respect to ... the laws of war," said Jeremy Laurence, a spokesperson for the U.N.'s human rights office in Geneva. Laurence said the U.N. had received credible reports that a dozen women and children were among the dead.

UN says Yemen risks being dragged into conflict that could spiral out of control

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Yemen risks being dragged further into the military escalation in the Middle East that keeps intensifying and could spiral out of control, the U.N. special envoy for the Arab world's poorest nation said Tuesday.

Hans Grundberg told the U.N. Security Council that regrettably Yemen is part of the escalation—and he warned that repeated attacks on international shipping by its Houthi rebels "have significantly increased the risk of an environment disaster" in the Red Sea.

Both Grundberg and the U.N.'s acting humanitarian chief Joyce Msuya urged the Iranian-backed Houthis to halt their attacks on international shipping, which the rebel group began to support fellow Iranian-backed militant group Hamas after its Oct. 7 attack in Israel that sparked Israel's ongoing war in Gaza.

The U.N. officials also demanded the release of dozens of U.N. personnel, staff of non-governmental organizations and diplomatic missions, and members of civil society, most detained since June.

Msuya called the Houthis' recent referral of a significant number of those detained for "criminal prosecution" unacceptable and accusations against them false. She said

three are U.N. personnel—two from the Paris-based U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and one from the Geneva-based U.N. human rights office. They were detained earlier in 2021 and 2023.

Days after the June detentions, the Houthis said those being held were members of what they called an "American-Israeli spy network," an allegation vehemently denied by the U.N., NGO organizations, governments and others.

The Houthis have been engaged in a civil war with Yemen's internationally recognized government, backed by a Saudi-led coalition, since 2014, when they took control of the capital Sanaa and most of the north. Hopes for peace talks vanished after the Oct. 7 attack, which killed about 1,200 people in Israel, mainly civilians, and saw about 250 taken hostage, with about 100 still being held. Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not say how many were fighters but say women and children make up more than half of the fatalities.

Grundberg told council members "Yemenis continue to yearn and work for peace," but he said hopes for progress to end the escalating violence in the Middle East "seem distant."

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Life & Style

Elton John turns saga of Tammy Faye into song for Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—When Elton John was on tour in America in the 1970s, there was someone on TV who caught his eye. She was an over-the-top, heavy makeup-wearing performer who wore her heart on her sleeve and yet seemed in on the joke—

televangelist Tammy Faye Bakker. You could say game was recognizing game.

John—who back then toured in bedazzled hats, cartoonish outfits and sported enough sequins to choke an elephant—was drawn to a woman with caked-on makeup, an

ability to connect with fans and the skill to return after a gut-punch of betrayal.

“She fascinated the hell out of me,” John tells The Associated Press. “I love people who come back from the dead, more or less. She was completely outlawed and ban-

ished, and she fought through that because of her goodness and kindness and her belief and her faith. It’s an amazing story, Shakespearean in a way.”

John has put this Shakespearean heroine’s story to song with the stage musical “Tammy Faye” and the latest

iteration lands on Broadway this month, championing what he calls “a gladiator on her own terms.”

“She comes from absolute nothing—complete poverty—getting all the fame and the wealth and then losing it all in a world of men,” says book writer James Graham. “There is a universality to that story.”

Who was Tammy Faye?

Tammy Faye and Jim Bakker rose to prominence as the husband-and-wife televangelist hosts of TV’s Praise the Lord Club from 1974 through 1987. They preached the prosperity gospel, a belief that God wants his followers to be wealthy and healthy.

The Bakkers were embroiled in a scandal when Jim Bakker was accused of sexual assault and financial fraud involving hush money paid to his alleged victim. After divorcing Bakker in 1992,

Tammy Faye would go on to marry Roe Messner, who was himself convicted of bankruptcy fraud in 1996.

The musical has been retooled from a run in London in 2022, with two songs out and two added. The project has the blessing of her second husband, and her son Jay Bakker, has attended rehearsals.

The creative team—John, Graham, director Rupert Goold and lyricist Jake Shears of Scissor Sisters—is largely British, except for Shears, so they say they were careful coming to America telling the story of an American icon.

“Most of the music is joyous because it’s set in the South and it’s gospel-orientated,” says John. “I consider her to be joyous and so it was quite easy to write the joyous songs. I love that kind of music. I’m basically a born-again Southern person. It just appealed to me.”



AP
Elton John performs on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington on Sept. 23, 2022, left, and Tammy Faye Bakker appears during the taping of an infomercial in 1987.

Lawyers for Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs ask judge to release identities of accusers

NEW YORK (AP)—Lawyers for Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs asked a New York judge Tuesday to force prosecutors to disclose the names of his accusers in his sex trafficking case.

The lawyers wrote in a letter to a Manhattan federal court judge that the hip-hop music maker needs to know the identities of his alleged victims so he can prepare adequately for trial.

Last week, a May 5 trial date was set for Combs. He has pleaded not guilty.

A spokesperson for prosecutors declined comment.

Combs, 54, remains incarcerated without bail after his Sept. 16 federal sex trafficking arrest. His lawyers have asked a federal appeals court to let him be freed to home detention so he can more easily meet with lawyers and prepare for trial.

So far, judges have concluded he is a danger to the community and cannot be freed.

The request to identify accusers comes a day after six new lawsuits were filed against Combs anonymously to protect the identities of the alleged victims. Two of the ac-

cusers were identified as Jane Does while four men were listed in the lawsuits as John Does. The lawsuits claimed he used his fame and promises of boosting their own prospects in the music industry to persuade victims to attend lavish parties or drug-fueled hangouts where he then assaulted them.

The plaintiffs in Monday’s lawsuits are part of what their lawyers say is a group of more than 100 accusers who are in the process of taking legal action against Combs.

In their letter Tuesday to Judge Arun Subramanian, lawyers for Combs said the case against their client is unique in part because of the number of accusers. They attributed the quantity to “his celebrity status, wealth and the publicity of his previously settled lawsuit.”

That reference appeared to cite a November lawsuit filed by his former girlfriend, Cassie, whose legal name is Casandra Ventura. Combs settled the lawsuit the next day, but its allegations of sexual and physical abuse have followed him since.

Prince William tries his hand at flag football in NFL event with kids in London

LONDON (AP)—Prince William played catch with British teenagers at a flag football event organized by the NFL on Tuesday.

Children from Birmingham, Manchester and London participated at the Kennington Park field hockey pitch in south London.

Phoebe Schecter, captain of Britain’s women’s flag football team, advised William to embrace his “inner Shakira” by moving the hips when throwing an American football.

Flag football will make



AP
Britain’s Prince William throws a football as he attends a NFL Foundation NFL Flag event, an inclusive and fast paced American Football format, in London, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024

its debut as an Olympic sport at the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

William is a big soccer fan and patron of the English Football Association, which governs the sport in the country, and regularly attends the Wimbledon tennis tournament. He said “I try my hand at most (sports)” though “not very well.”

The NFL has supported the growth of flag worldwide as it seeks to win over younger fans and future consumers.

Tuesday’s event was organized by NFL Foundation UK.

Blowup with sister comes at worst possible time

DEAR ABBY: My out-of-state sister is facing major, life-threatening surgery. Even though she isn’t well, I asked to visit her a few days prior to a family reunion, and she agreed. While I was there, I noticed she was irritable and sharp-tongued, more so than she usually is. I let it go. However, on the morning of the reunion, as we were getting ready to go, she turned her anger on me, screaming and yelling at me and making all kinds of accusations.

I’m sorry to say that after repeated statements, I started shouting back. When I regained my composure, I apologized to her for everything she said I had done as a guest. Then I packed my bags and went to stay at another family member’s home. At the reunion, she was sweet and nice to everyone but, of course, our conversation was minimal.

I’m home now, but at a loss as to what to do next. I already apologized, but the silence from her is deafening. She has always been headstrong, argumentative and self-righteous, but she’s my only sibling, and I love her. I’m not perfect either, but I can’t help but think that an apology from her is the only way we can move forward. Agree?

BROTHER WHO TRIES IN ILLINOIS

DEAR BROTHER: No, I do not agree. Your sister is very ill. The treatment is life-threatening. In this situation, many

people are not at their best. Do not demand or expect an apology from her. Call, text or write her to tell her you love her and wish her well in the coming weeks and months, and that she is in your thoughts. In a case like this, a dose of selective amnesia on your part might be beneficial.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently found out my 32-year-old distant cousin (male) on my dad’s side has been flirting with my mom on Facebook Messenger. (For the record, my parents have been divorced for 18 years.) I saw this when I was helping Mom set up her new phone and she received one of the messages. She has asked him to stop, but he keeps sending messages that start with “Hey, beautiful,” “Hey, most beautiful lady in the world” and “Hey, hot stuff.” He says he wants to take her on a date and kiss her, even if it’s just once.

I know I was wrong for doing this, but I decided to review the whole conversation and other conversations from previous FB accounts my cousin has had. These messages go back two years, including when he was in another relationship. Neither my mom nor my cousin knows that I know about these messages.

I am reluctant to confront my cousin because of how I found out, and I want to avoid causing embarrassment for my mom from that side of the family. But I feel he needs to be held ac-

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



countable and to know that this is not OK. What should I do?
KNOWS TOO MUCH IN WISCONSIN

DEAR KNOWS: Your mother is an adult, and presumably in her right mind. If she didn’t enjoy the attention, she could block the messages. My advice is to stop snooping and stay out of it.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

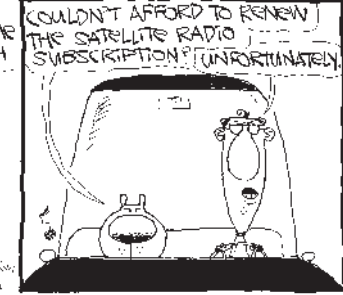
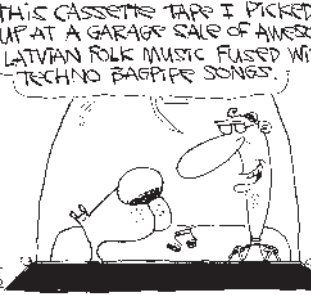


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Chop-ped 5 Hotel amenity 8 "Hey, you!" 12 River to the Rhine 13 Animation frame 14 Canyon sound 15 Sketch for Post Malone 17 Algerian port 18 Wool provider 20 Fine fiddles 22 Republicans 23 Use a shovel 24 Bud holder 27 Book excerpts 32 PC key 33 Fond du — 34 Roman 56 35 Grin span 38 Pro votes

39 "The Bear" actress Edebi 40 Visual communication syst. 42 Ill will 45 Lumberjack's call 49 Outside (Pref.) 50 Rainbow 52 Paris airport 53 "Scram!" 54 "What-ever" 55 Egyptian river 56 Nashville's state 57 Utter 58 Crummy grades

DOWN 1 "Mary — Little Lamb" 2 Hoops great Monroe 3 Enfold 4 Like Enya's music 5 Penn-sylvania Dutch dish 6 Pod veggie 7 Swiss peaks 8 Illinois city 9 Un-kempt 10 Herring's kin 11 Oodles 19 Biz abbr.

21 Gridiron scores, for short 24 Churchill gesture 25 Simile words 26 "The Office" city 28 Bond rating 29 Sore, as a throat 30 Night before the big day 31 Venus, to Serena 36 Business bigwig 37 Odometer start 38 Candy bar nut 41 Yes, to Juan 42 Take it easy 43 Dull pain 44 Farm fathers 46 Party cheese 47 "Legally Blonde" role 48 Deli loaves 51 "Angie" actor

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 10-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Felicity Jones, 41; Eminem, 52; Rob Marshall, 64; Alan Jackson, 66.

Happy Birthday: Use your energy beneficially. If you let situations escalate into battle, you will deplete your energy and fall behind. Don't allow negativity to eat away at you; if you direct your energy wisely, your success will be your best revenge. Let go of what's holding you back and embrace what has meaning for you, and everything else will fall into place. Love and be good to yourself. Your numbers are 5, 13, 24, 30, 38, 41, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make a point to step outside your comfort zone and try something new. Participating in an event or activity that requires courage will build confidence and an astute sense of what and who you want to incorporate into your life. Expand your vision, awareness and possibilities. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your emotions to your benefit. Follow your heart and let your intuition lead the way. Talk to individuals who offer insight and support and who value your opinion. The information you gather will encourage change and help you finish what you start. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Address any restrictions you encounter and go about your business. Clearing the path before you start your journey will encourage others to trust and believe in you. Maintaining a calm demeanor will stifle any attempt to turn a situation from something simple into something chaotic. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): What you offer will stir a crowd. How you handle others will determine what's to come. A positive attitude will help you cut to the chase and incorporate your dreams with the support

you require to be successful. An emotional conversation will lead to favorable results. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look for opportunities and head in that direction. There is no time to waste or reason to dawdle. Actions speak louder than words and will have a more significant impact on the results. An innovative approach and not letting fear stand between you and victory will pay off. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Implement a plan. A change will give you a new lease on life and encourage you to rethink your dreams. It's time to direct your time and energy into what matters to you most instead of trying to please someone who doesn't offer the same respect in return. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You know the drill, so stop procrastinating and implement something. Be the initiator and show some passion and desire to be the leader that you are, and you'll find your bliss. Embrace a challenge instead of running away. Use intelligence, experience and facts, not force, to win. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Distance yourself from anyone applying pressure or trying to dictate what you do next. Use your intelligence, rely on your memory and exercise your rights. A disciplined attitude and innovative ideas will help you outsmart anyone trying to exploit you. Financial gain looks promising. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sorrow will prevail if you give someone the benefit of the doubt. Don't misread intentions or let someone exploit you. Focus on what you can do to bring about positive change and protect your financial, emotional and physical well-being. It would help if you put yourself first. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your emotions in check and be willing to listen to and observe what's happening around you. Knowledge is the best way forward. Get the facts, consider the possibilities and review the potential outcomes based on experience and intuition. A change of scenery will be enlightening. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may relish something new and exciting, but, for now, living with what you have will save you time, money and stress. Learn all you can, focus inward and prioritize personal growth, fitness and health. The best change will come from within, not from outside influences. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Simplify your plans, lifestyle and habits to fit your budget and emotional well-being. Direct your energy into something meaningful and use your time deliberately to ensure that you reduce stress. Life is about choices and being true to yourself and the ones you love. Choose peace over discord. *****

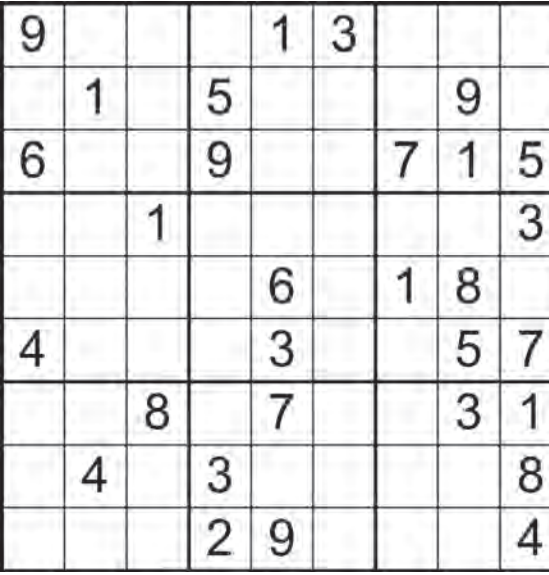
Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, forceful and impulsive. You are resourceful and wise.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

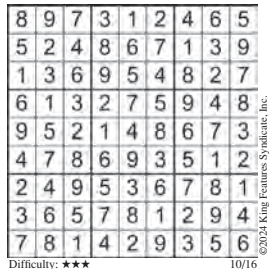
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★★ 10/17 ©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TIME TO GET COMFY Solution: 9 letters

F R I E N D S S G N I G G E L
I A F O S A M A J A P E T S E
R O M L O O W J O U R N A L I
E C A I O M A E R D I F R I S
P O T B L O T C A G E E S P U
L C T R E Y P E H H L A D P R
A O R A D Y R T T A E B T E E
C O E R T E P A X T I M S R N
E K S Y W S B E N S E R A S A
M I S O E E E A R A A C E L
I E H R L H R A C O W D G P
T S E B O H C U O C E C O N R
D N B T H E A T E R H F P U I
E U E G A S S A M U G S U O A
B L A N K E T T N A S A E L P

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Judge, Yankees beat Guardians for 2-0 ALCS lead



NEW YORK

(AP)—Aaron Judge sent the ball soaring toward Monument Park and Gleyber Torres tagged up at first base.

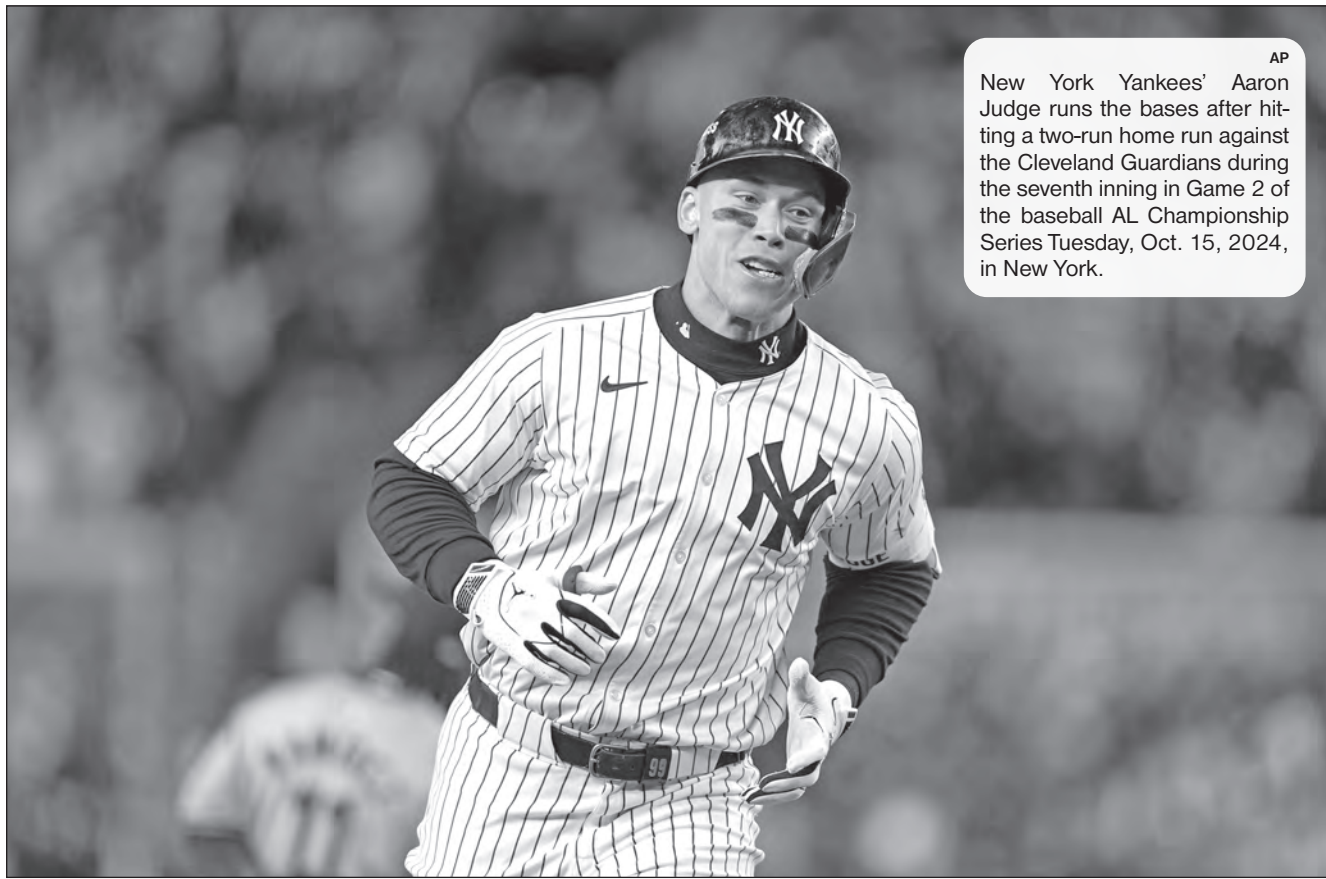
“That was disrespect out of Gleyber, man,” Judge said with a smile. “He’s seen me hit 58 of those things this year.”

Judge’s first home run of the postseason broke the tension, a two-run, seventh-inning drive that helped boost the New York Yankees over the Cleveland Guardians 6-3 on Tuesday night for a 2-0 AL Championship Series lead.

“I’m a little disappointed in Gleyber for not knowing Judge’s pop there,” Anthony Rizzo said. “We were ribbing him a lot about that. It’s a big swing for Judgey.”

Judge, who entered with just one RBI in the playoffs, hit a sacrifice fly in a two-run second that put the Yankees ahead 3-0 — after Cleveland intentionally walked Juan Soto to load the bases.

“You want to try to get a



AP
New York Yankees' Aaron Judge runs the bases after hitting a two-run home run against the Cleveland Guardians during the seventh inning in Game 2 of the baseball AL Championship Series Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, in New York.

double-play ball,” Guardians manager Stephen Vogt said. “You want to try to get two

outs with one pitch.”

Judge, who led the major leagues with 58 homers and 144 RBIs, was understanding.

“I would probably walk him, too,” he said.

With New York leading 4-2 lead in the seventh, the likely AL MVP drove a fastball at the letters from Hunter Gaddis 414 feet to center for his 14th career postseason home run.

“It was a big swing to kind of give us that cushion,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. “The bench was pretty pumped when that happened.”

Judge also was good-natured about Torres’ decision to tag up.

“You never know on these windy, chilly nights what that ball is going to do when you hit it to center here,” he said.

“but the ghosts were pulling out there to Monument Park, that’s for sure.”

In a matchup of aces who had off nights, Cleveland’s Tanner Bibee got just four outs in the shortest start of his professional career and an erratic Gerrit Cole was chased after four walks in 4 1/3 innings.

“Just got to do better, got to do better,” the reigning AL Cy Young Award winner said.

Winner Clay Holmes, Tim Hill and Tommy Kahnle combined for 3 2/3 scoreless innings.

José Ramírez hit a ninth-inning home run off Luke Weaver, just the second earned run New York’s bullpen has allowed over 23 1/3 innings in six postseason games.

After a day off, Game 3 is Thursday in Cleveland. The Yankees lead the ALCS 2-0 for the first time since 2009 against the Los Angeles Angels.

Torres reached base leading off for the fifth time in the playoffs and had three hits. Rizzo had two hits and is 3 for 7 in two games since returning from a pair of fractured fingers that caused him to miss the Division Series.

Rookie shortstop Brayan Rocchio and right fielder Will Brennan committed run-scoring errors for the Guardians. Rocchio dropped Judge’s first-inning popup, allowing Torres to score.

“No excuse, I need to make that play,” Rocchio said through an interpreter. “I

thought I was under the ball and last minute I was leaning towards second base.”

After Cleveland closed to 3-2, Brennan bobbled the ball when he tried for a barehand pickup of Rizzo’s sixth-inning double that caromed off the low wall down the right-field line. Anthony Volpe, who had been on first, sprinted home.

Steven Kwan extended his Cleveland-record postseason hitting streak to 12 games.

Alex Verdugo had a opposite-field RBI double in the two-run second that glanced off a shoulder of left field umpire Vic Carapazza and went down the line.

Cole escaped two-on, one-out trouble in the third and then a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the fourth when pinch-hitter David Fry fouled out and Rocchio took a knuckle curve at the top of the strike zone for a called third strike in a nine-pitch at-bat.

Cleveland cut its deficit to 3-2 in the fifth when Josh Naylor hit a sacrifice fly and, after Holmes relieved with the bases loaded, Will Brennan grounded into a run-scoring forceout. Holmes struck out Austin Hedges on low sinker to leave the bases loaded.

“They kind of made a little push there and we were able to stop it,” Holmes said.

Cleveland went 0 for 7 with runners in scoring position and stranded 11 runners. The Guardians are 1 for 11 RISP in the series.

“We’re one swing of the bat away from taking the lead in that game,” Vogt said. “We’re one swing of the bat from being right back in it. That is who we are. We don’t quit. We just need to keep being us.”

Kershaw says he plans to return to Dodgers for 18th season in 2025



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw wears a glove on his head and devices on his arms in the dugout during practice Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, a day before Game 3 of a baseball NL Division Series against the San Diego Padres in San Diego.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Clayton Kershaw says he plans to return to the Los Angeles Dodgers for his 18th season next year.

The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner isn’t pitching in the current playoffs because of a bone spur in his left big toe that sidelined him for the final month of the regular season.

The 36-year-old left-hander made just seven starts this year, going 2-2 with a 4.50 ERA—both career lows.

Last November, Kershaw had left shoulder surgery and the subsequent recovery kept him out of action until July 25. By Aug. 31, the 10-time All-Star was on the injured list with the toe injury.

“My shoulder and elbow, everything, my arm feels great,” he said on Fox’s pre-

game telecast Monday.

“Obviously, I had some tough luck with my foot this year but I want to make use of this surgery. I don’t want to have surgery and then shut it down. I’m going to come back next year and give it a go and see how it goes.”

In February, Kershaw signed a one-year contract with a player option for 2025. He had a \$5 million base salary this season and earned \$2.5 million in performance bonuses, and the deal includes an option he can exercise for a \$10 million base salary in 2025. Kershaw would get a \$1 million bonus for each start next year from 11-25.

He’s spent his entire career with the Dodgers, although he has missed chunks of time in recent years because of a series of injuries.

TOKYO (AP)—Shin Uebori coaches the Fukagawa Hawks youth baseball team in Tokyo, and he is very aware how Los Angeles Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani inspires his players.

“With Ohtani, the kids think everything is possible,” Uebori said, wrapping up practice on Sunday on an all-dirt field set alongside a local Buddhist temple, below an elevated highway, and in the shadow of tall apartment blocks in central Tokyo.

“Nothing is impossible with him. A dream is not a dream,” Uebori said, stepping out of the fenced practice field that keeps balls from landing on the temple grounds. None of the young players hitting sponge-soft baseball has reached the highway, yet.

Ohtani-mania ebbs and flows in Japan, though blue

Dodgers caps have replaced Yankees caps as the country’s go-to sports fashion item.

Japan has other big names on the world sports stage—golfer Hideki Matsuyama, boxer Naoya Inoue, and tennis player Naomi Osaka. And Japan came away from the Paris Olympics with a record of 20 gold medals, a best for the country for a Games on foreign soil.

But no one matches Ohtani, not even teammate Yoshinobu Yamamoto who outpitched fellow Japanese Yu Darvish to defeat the San Diego Padres in the best-of-five NLDS.

The mania topped out when Japan won the World Baseball Classic about 20 months ago, defeating the United States. And it hit another peak when Ohtani signed a 10-year, \$700-million contract and moved from the

Angels to the Dodgers to start the 2024 season.

The only valley came in March when Ohtani was implicated in a gambling scandal. Prosecutors eventually found no evidence Ohtani was involved.

The next peak is building slowly with Ohtani and teammate Yamamoto in the NLCS against the New York Mets. If the Dodgers reach the World Series, public viewing areas are almost certain to be set up across Japan to watch the games—most being shown in early morning in the country.

The time difference between New York and Tokyo is 13 hours. It’s 16 between Tokyo and Los Angeles.

Yukako Takahashi watched her 10-year-old son Haruka at Sunday’s practice, and she was clear about Ohtani’s influence on her

son and his teammates.

“Everyone is inspired by him,” she said. “Kids wonder how he got his spirit. For kids he is just a big idol. He’s perfect.”

She said she wasn’t regularly watching Ohtani’s games from the United States, but she follows him on the local news. Many days, he’s the top story—and not just the top sports story. She suggested interest was sure to build if the Dodgers reach the World Series later this month.

She also said Ohtani was inspirational for the rest of Japan, partly because he’s able to beat the Americans—and the Latin Americans—at their own game.

“The economy is down these days in Japan,” she said. “Things are very difficult these days. But with Ohtani being successful, he is our hope.”

Ohtani gives hope to young baseball players in Japan, and the rest of the country, too

The NBA's parity era is here, with 6 champions in 6 years

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

It was a few minutes after Denver's reign as NBA champion had come to an end last spring. The Minnesota Timberwolves were celebrating, their music and screams loud enough to be heard inside the room where Nuggets coach Michael Malone was somberly going through his final postgame news conference of the season.

In that moment, it was official: Another season was going by without the NBA having a back-to-back champion, and Malone was left to state

» Now Boston will try to buck that trend

what has become obvious.

"It is hard. It is hard. It is hard to repeat," Malone said. "It's hard to win."

He's right. And there's never been an era in NBA history where it's been harder.

Here are the last six NBA champions, in order: Toronto, the Los Angeles Lakers, Milwaukee, Golden State, Denver and now Boston. That's six different title-winning franchises in six seasons, a run of parity that the league has seen only once before — nearly a half-century ago.

The days of dynasties may be on hold for now, replaced by a time when, for a variety of reasons, it's more difficult than usual to get to the NBA mountaintop and stay there. It's the Celtics' turn to try to buck that trend.

"It's always hard to win one," said Boston guard Jrue Holiday, who won a title with Milwaukee in 2021 and was part of the Bucks team that



Boston Celtics Jrue Holiday, left, and Boston Celtics Jaylen Brown stand during a preseason game between Boston Celtics and Denver Nuggets in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Oct. 4, 2024.

was ousted in Round 2 a year later. "But then to win back-to-back is even harder."

The NBA doesn't seem to mind. This is the Parity Era and the current collective bargaining agreement figures to make it even tougher for teams to be dynastic — a swift change from the four-year run spanning 2015 through 2018 when Cleveland and Golden State got to the finals annually.

In simple terms, the more that teams spend, the harder it is now to make moves, especially moves involving big-contract players. The latest CBA, which went into effect last year, includes two aprons over the luxury tax figure. Go over the first apron, your ros-

ter flexibility is hampered. Go over the second one, and it's severely hampered. It could be argued there haven't been rule changes this significant since the league changed the lottery odds and added a play-in tournament to discourage tanking.

An example: it recently took Minnesota and New York several days to complete a deal a couple weeks ago after agreeing on the parameters — Karl-Anthony Towns going to the Knicks, Julius Randle and Donte DiVencenzo going to the Wolves — because the financial particulars needed to be very precise.

"The new rules ... some of the consequences are un-

intended, quite frankly," Wolves President of Basketball Operations Tim Connelly was quoted by ESPN saying. "I don't know if anyone intended to make it this challenging to make moves, to make trades when you're above certain aprons."

No, that's exactly what the NBA wanted.

"I don't want to say nothing is lost, but to me, I don't think our system, by definition, will prevent repeat championships," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "I think that, yes, it makes it less likely, but we didn't set out to say, 'Let's make sure there's a different champion every year.' I think, again, it goes more to

equality of opportunity. But I think in the same vein, I think there's real incentive for players to stay in markets."

Nobody would say all 30 teams enter this season with a realistic title chance. But there are more true hopefuls than there were just a few seasons ago. Last year, 12 teams entered the year with title odds of 25-1 or shorter. Six years

earlier, at the peak of the Warriors-Cavs run, there were only three such teams.

"The league's looking for parity," Washington general manager Will Dawkins said. "And flattening the lottery odds, adding in the second apron, all of those things are things that are supposed to contribute to that."

None of the previous five champions, not including the reigning Celtics (the overwhelming favorite to win this season's title, according to BetMGM Sportsbook), even made it back to the finals the following season. That matches the longest such drought in NBA history, last done when the champions from 1973 through 1977—in order, New York, Boston, Golden State, Boston again and then Portland—were all ousted in the conference finals or earlier.

A few years ago, most teams probably didn't think they had a realistic chance. That's different row.

"I just think all of it is setting up to be more competitive, more teams going for it. And that's when it gets fun, when there's not much difference between teams," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It'll be how teams can manage all those different emotions and the competitive spirit throughout the course of a season. It gets uncomfortable at times. I love it. It's awesome for the league, it's great for viewership, it's great for the fans. It's ultimately what you want."

76ers' Paul George diagnosed with bone bruise

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Philadelphia 76ers forward Paul George has a bone bruise but did not suffer any structural damage when he hyperextended his left knee during a preseason game, the team said Tuesday.

"Everything checks out OK," coach Nick Nurse told reporters at the team's New Jersey complex after George had an initial exam. The team announced later in the day that an MRI showed the bone bruise but no structural damage.

The Sixers said he would be reevaluated again in about a week.

Even before the injury, George was not scheduled to play in Wednesday's preseason game against Brooklyn.

A nine-time All-Star, George was injured when his knee buckled on a defensive play in the second quarter of Monday's game against Atlanta. He scored eight points in 12 minutes in a 104-89 victory.

"I felt that it hyperextended, and immediately it was, all right, I need to get taken out and (looked at), but if you ask

me, I'm not too concerned about it," George told The Philadelphia Inquirer.

The Sixers have been cautious with their star players and shut down center Joel Embiid on Sunday for the rest of the preseason for what they called left knee management.

The Sixers—who signed George to a four-year, \$212 million contract as a free agent this summer—are his fourth team, after seven years with Indiana, two with Oklahoma City and the last five as a member of the Los Angeles Clippers. He's a six-time All-NBA selection and has averaged 20.8 points over 14 NBA seasons.

With George joining the 2023 NBA MVP in Embiid and All-Star guard Tyrese Maxey, the 76ers were expected to boast one of the most formidable trios in the league as they try to put together a nucleus that can compete with NBA champion Boston.

George played 76 games last season, the first time he played more than 56 since 2018-19.

LeBron: Teaming up with Steph in Paris was 'everything and more,' but 'no idea' if it happens again

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—LeBron James finally teamed up with Stephen Curry during the Paris Olympics, and the top scorer in NBA history got more than a gold medal out of the experience.

"It was everything and more," James said Monday before Los Angeles departed for two preseason games this week against Curry's Golden State Warriors.

"I was super excited to be able to finally team up with him in a win-or-die type atmosphere," James added. "That's what it was, being a part of the Olympics. It was everything that I dreamed of and aspired to want, to be a part of that team, along with Steph. Great memories. Something that I'll remember from my basketball career

for the rest of my life, for sure."

And when James was asked whether he could ever envision himself being teammates with Curry again, James didn't dismiss it out of hand.

"I have no idea," he said.

James and Curry are arguably the best players of their era and have a history competing against one another. They met in four consecutive NBA Finals from 2015-18, and Curry's Warriors won three of four over James' Cleveland Cavaliers.

They had never been teammates outside of NBA All-Star games until the Paris Olympics, when both veterans played major roles in the U.S. triumph. James recorded a triple-double against Nikola Jokic in the U.S. vic-

tory over Serbia in the semi-final, while Curry's barrage of late 3-pointers finished off France to win gold.

The 39-year-old James said this summer that the Paris Games would be his last, so any chance of playing alongside Curry again would probably have to happen in the NBA. That seems highly unlikely; LeBron is committed to the Lakers for two more seasons alongside his son, Bronny, while the 36-year-old Curry is signed with Golden State for three more seasons.

James said last season that he hopes to finish his career with the Lakers, while Curry has said he wants to spend his entire career with the team that drafted him in 2009. Even if they never wear the same uni-

form again outside of an All-Star Game, James reiterated his respect for Curry.

"I understand what Steph has done for this game," James said. "I understand what he's done for his organization, what he's done for the community, people all over the world, just by his approach to the game and how he is as a man. ... When you have that type of respect for somebody and then you get to be around them every day and you see the way they work and how they treat their craft, it's a pretty cool thing. You're able to just respect that and not take it for granted."

The Lakers face the Warriors on Tuesday night in Las Vegas and on Friday night in San Francisco.

Tom Brady's purchase of minority stake in Raiders approved



ATLANTA (AP)—Tom Brady has another new role in the NFL: Owner.

The seven-time Super Bowl champion purchased a minority stake in the Las Vegas Raiders, a deal unanimously approved by NFL team owners on Tuesday at the league's annual fall meeting.

In a lengthy statement on X, Brady said he was "incredibly humbled and excited" to receive approval.

"I'm eager to contribute to the organization in any way I can, honoring the Raiders' rich tradition while finding every possible opportunity to improve our offering to fans... and most importantly, WIN football games," Brady posted.

Brady also thanked Raiders

majority owner Mark Davis, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and others.

"It's an exciting day for the Raider organization," Davis said. "Although Tom can't play, I think he can help us select a quarterback in the future and potentially train him as well."

Brady, who played 23 seasons with the Patriots and Buccaneers, takes 5% control of the Raiders. He needed to receive 24 of 32 votes. The 47-year-old Brady can't come out of retirement and play again unless he sells his stake in the team.

"It's great that Tom Brady wants to invest in the NFL," Goodell said. "He cares deeply about this game. He believes in its future and I think that's just a signal of that."

The deal was initially agreed upon in May 2023, but



Fox Sports lead NFL analyst Tom Brady stands on the field during warmups before an NFL football game between the Detroit Lions and the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024.

it took owners 17 months to give their approval over concerns Brady was receiving too much of a discount from Davis. Brady's new job as a broadcaster with Fox also was an issue because it could represent a conflict of interest.

"There were a lot of things from a structural and due diligence standpoint that had to happen, which is why it took so long for it to be approved and we finally got all that put to bed," Chiefs owner Clark Hunt said.

The NFL placed restrictions on Brady before the season to limit his access. He is not permitted to attend production meetings in person or virtually and may not have access to team facilities or players and coaching personnel. Brady may broadcast Raiders games. He also has to abide by the league constitution and bylaws that prohibit public criticism of officials and other clubs.

Brady also owns a minority stake in the WNBA's Las Vegas Aces, who are owned by Davis.

Pro Football Hall of Famer Richard Seymour, who played with Brady in New England, also received approval Tuesday to purchase a minority stake in the Raiders.

"This is the mission of a lifetime, and I accept it with both purpose and pride," Seymour posted on X. "With

great opportunity comes great responsibility. And I pledge to be a worthy steward of our game—and all it makes possible."

Brady and Seymour are the fifth and sixth former NFL players to become owners after George Halas Sr., Jerry Richardson, Warrick Dunn and John Stallworth.

Davis joked that he didn't like Brady very much when he was an opponent but he tried hard to sign him as a free agent in 2020 before the 15-time Pro Bowl QB went to Tampa Bay.

"We're really proud to have him as part of the organization," Davis said. "He's a competitor, he's a bright young man. There's just so many pluses for both sides. It's great."

The Raiders haven't won a Super Bowl since capturing their third title in eight years following the 1983 season. They won their first two championships in Oakland and the last one in Los Angeles. They moved to Las Vegas in 2020 and haven't won a playoff game since losing the Super Bowl to Tampa Bay on Jan. 26, 2003.

SOCCER

From page 16

grouped and held the Hilitais to two goals as long as they could, but the Hilitais were relentless and Elyza Brillo fired a no-doubter to put them up, 3-0.

In the second half, action went on mostly in Tatagas' territory once again as the Hilitais applied the pressure on them throughout the match. Then, TMS defense slipped up anew as the fourth goal was made by Brillo in the 32nd minute.

All that the Tatagas could do

at this point was damage control, but the Hilitais pressed on and broke the game even more wide open with three back-to-back goals by Brillo.

She went on a tear as she completed her hat-trick in the 43rd minute and put them up, 5-0. Then, she caught fire in her cleats and burned two

more goals a minute after the other in the 45th and the 46th.

The Tatagas still played on despite the losing effort and eventually the game ending whistle sounded off to their last game of the season.

In the last semis matchup, the Geckos' lone goal was enough to seal their win, 1-0, over Dandan Middle School Totots for the last finals spot.

Both teams were in a heated battle that went scoreless for a good portion of the first half. They were evenly matched with both unable to break the barrier of their defenses as they tried to get on

the board first.

Finally, SIS found the back of the net with a kick by Beatrice Gross in the 14th minute to put them up, 1-0. The Totots tried to make a break for it after that but couldn't capitalize and convert on some opportunities.

The Geckos went on double time to try to get more on the board, but in the end, the Geckos hung on by a thread with the 1-0 final.

The championship game is set for Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 5:30pm, while the bronze medal game between TMS and DMS is at 4pm.

MICRO

From page 16

Paddling Club to represent at home against paddlers from Guam and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The teams from Guam include Animun Tasi, Bihun Tasi, Haggan Jrs., Maneran Galaide, Napu, PFM, Poksai Canoe Club, Puti'on Tasi, and Taotao Galaide.

The lone team from RMI that made the long trip to Saipan is the Majol Canoe Paddling Club.

The race categories are the V1, V6, and V12 500-meter and 1,500-meter sprints. V1 and V6 also have a distance race. The divisions include the men's, women's, juniors, and masters.

Tomorrow, the V1 500m sprint is starting at 11am, with the V12 sprints to follow.

The opening ceremony with a 500 Sails canoe blessing is set for Saturday at 7am. The V6 500m and 1,500m sprints are set for 7:30am.

On the last day on Sunday, the V1 and V6 distance race is set to start at 6:30am.

Lorian Rabe, a member of the event's organizing committee, said that the three teams under the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation, "have been training relentlessly all season, dedicating countless hours on the water to prepare

for the Micronesia Cup. Having just concluded our local race season, the paddlers are in top form and eager to compete. As the host country, there's a strong sense of pride, and we're all thrilled for the chance to represent the CNMI on home turf, especially with traveling teams coming in from across Micronesia."

She said, "each club has been pushing their limits, and with the opportunity to showcase their skills here at home, they're more motivated than ever. There's a real sense of camaraderie and anticipation among our paddlers to make this a memorable event, not just for the local community, but for the visiting teams as well. We can't wait to see these teams compete and show what CNMI paddlers are made of!"

As for how the NMNPSF is feeling heading into hosting the event, she said the NMNPSF "is proud to spearhead this special event, which will showcase the talents of men's, women's, junior, and master paddlers from clubs across the CNMI, Guam, and the Marshall Islands."

She added, "We invite the whole community to come out and experience the excitement. Admission is free, and there will be local food and craft vendors on-site for everyone to enjoy. So, grab your sunblock and get ready for an unforgettable day of racing, fun, and community spirit.

The NMNPSF can't wait to welcome you all!"

She then concluded with, "This event would not have been possible without the support of our sponsors. Their generosity is a true testament to the spirit of community partnership, with everyone pitching in to make this event a success. That's what makes it so special."

NMNPSF would like to thank the following sponsors: Tan Holdings, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Crowne Plaza, IT&E, MARPAC, Marianas Visitors Authority, Turnkey Solutions, The Athlete's Foot, Paradise Realty Saipan, Marianas Pacific Paddlers, Micronesia Brokers, H.K. Pangelinan & Associates, LLC, Coca Cola, UR Tents, Northern Marianas College's media team, Hafa Adai Rent A Car, and Herman's Bakery.

Special thanks to the Saipan Mayor's Office, Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, Division of Parks & Recreation, Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Vince Castro, Next Level Media CNMI, Christopher Toto, Angie Yarormad, CNMI Designs, KKMP, Pacific Development, Inc., Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc., Wiski Services, 500 Sails, Pualani Crown, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, I Napu Dance Group, Da Kine, Tipiyew Bwiibwis, and Asia Hilario.

LITTLE

From page 16

BSS' Claire Fehrenbacher ran for gold with a time of 7:35. Silver was SIS' Olivia Walsh at 7:57, and bronze went to Mount Carmel School's Chloe Mostales.

Spaeth said that her performance and the championships was "good." Throughout the season, she was right behind Bauer who was always a step ahead of her and had hoped to beat him, but she said she just did her best.

She said the hardest course for her this season was at the CPA Airport Field, while the easiest course was the championship course.

As for her BSS team that swept the elementary school division, she said, "They tried really hard, and I think that was really important for our team. It was really fun running with them and having them be really supportive of everyone."

ACS administrator Kok H. Pang, whose high school girls and boys teams won the championship, said, "First and foremost, we give all glory to God

and our Lord Jesus Christ for His grace and mercy in empowering our student-athletes to achieve this success."

"Our high school students have worked tirelessly throughout the season, and we are deeply grateful for their dedication and discipline. For a small independent school like ours to be ranked among the best in the Northern Mariana Islands is a source of great pride for us coaches. I am especially proud of our high school girls, who managed to balance their academic responsibilities with participation in volleyball tournaments while excelling in cross country. Their commitment has been truly remarkable to witness," said Pang.

He then said, "I would also like to extend heartfelt thanks to the PSS Athletics Program officials, NMA officials, and Run Saipan organizers, with a special note of gratitude to Saipan Country Club for their generous support in granting us access to the golf course for both the championship and our practices. Your partnership and support have been invaluable to our success."

SPORTS BRIEFS

SLLB Inc. meeting on Oct. 26

The Saipan Little League Baseball Inc. will be having a general membership meeting for election of officers for its board of directors for the 2025 season.

All interested individuals willing to serve on the SLLB Inc. board of directors are encouraged to attend this meeting.

The meeting will be held on Oct. 26, 2024, starting at 9am at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe. (PR)

CBUA to hold umpires' accreditation course

The CNMI Baseball Umpires Association will be hosting an umpires' accreditation course in the latter part of October and is inviting potential and interested individuals to register for this course. The course will consist of a 10-hour session covering theory (lecture) and technical aspects (on field mechanics). The evening sessions will be broken down to two hours per day. CBUA requires participants to pay upfront a \$50 registration fee prior to the start of the course.

To be a certified umpire, participants must pass at least 70% of the final exam which should be attained at the end of the course.

For further information, contact CBUA president Tony Rogolifo at (670) 285-3966. (PR)



Judge,
Yankees beat
Guardians for
2-0 ALCS lead

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Tom Brady's
purchase of
minority stake
in Raiders
approved

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Little runners shine in 9U/12U divisions

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The littlest and youngest athletes took their short legs as fast as it could take them through the last course of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 season—the championships last Saturday at the Saipan Vegas Country Club.

The elementary school 12U divisions were swept all season by two of the season's fastest runners: Grace Christian Academy's Beau Baeur in the boys division, and Brilliant Star School's Lovel Spaeth in the girls division.

Baeur swept all four qualifiers and wrapped the gold around his finger in the championship with a time of 6:30 through the 1-mile, 1-lap course.



LEIGH GASES

The top winners in the boys and girls 12U divisions pose for a group photo with Northern Marianas Athletics president Ray Tebuteb far left, and Board of Education secretary/treasurer Greg Borja, far right, during the awards ceremony of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 championships last Saturday at the Saipan Vegas Country Club.

Silver went to Saipan International School's Gabriel Walsh at 6:43, while bronze went to Garapan Elementary School's Evan Poole.

For Spaeth, she took home the gold in the 12U girls division, while she also clocked in as the sec-

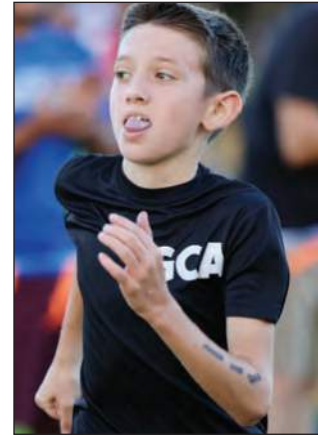
ond fastest runner overall with her time of 6:41. She, like Bauer, dominated all four qualifiers with a sweep of the season.

After Spaeth was SIS' Kaylen Taflinger at 7:41 for silver, and bronze was Agape Christian School's Angel You at 8:03.



In the younger 9U divisions, Kagman Elementary School's Brayden Brennfleck won gold at 7:27 in the boys division. Silver was won by GES' Koen Poole at 7:33, while bronze went to BSS' Ellis Fehrenbacher at 7:35.

For the girls 9U division, See **LITTLE** on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

12U boys division champion Beau Baeur of Grace Christian Academy runs into first place in the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 championships last Saturday at the Saipan Vegas Country Club.



LEIGH GASES

12U girls division champion Lovel Spaeth of Brilliant Star School sprints into gold in the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross-Country 2024-2025 championships last Saturday at the Saipan Vegas Country Club.

Soccer finals rematch set between HMS and SIS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School's middle school girls soccer team poses for a group photo at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It feels like déjà vu as the championship matchup in the NMIFA-PSS Girls Middle School Interscholastic Soccer League is set once again between the Hopwood Middle School Hilitais and Saipan International School Geckos.

The Hilitais engaged in a one-sided semis matchup against Tanapag Middle School Tatagas and won, 7-0, last Tuesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The Tatagas made it this far into the season but were

overmatched against the more well-rounded Hilitais. They did however, keep up with them in the first 12 minutes as it went by quietly—both sides sizing each other up, playing and setting out their game plans carefully.

Then, the Hilitais' Princess Gariguez, after multiple attacks at TMS' keeper, finally found the back of the net and opened up the game in the 13th minute.

Just three minutes later and after more attacks at the net, Anica Aquino doubled their advantage in the 16th minute. The Tatagas then re-

See **SOCCER** on Page 15



CNMI, Guam, RMI to compete in 24th Micro Cup this weekend

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a 12-year hiatus from hosting, the annual Micronesia Cup Canoe Race is gracing the CNMI's shores once again—this time in its 24th edition that is happening tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 18, to Sunday, Oct. 20 in the waters off Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

The Micro Cup is a regional



va'a outrigger race that is hosted alternately by Guam, Palau, and the CNMI. Last year, it was hosted by Guam, with CNMI hauling in a bunch of medals.

This year, the CNMI is once again bringing out the best of the best paddlers from three of its paddling clubs—Marianas Outrigger Club, Marianas Pacific Paddlers, and the Saipan

See **MICRO** on Page 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Outrigger Club men's team poses for a group photo at the Kilili Beach in Susupe.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Outrigger Club women's team poses for a group photo at the Kilili Beach in Susupe.